FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Dialogue Postponement — The Lebanese Government has decided to postpone the National Dialogue Committee meeting scheduled for 20 October and will hold intensive contacts to set a new date and venue for the talks, Beirut radio reported. According to the radio, the announcement followed a declaration by the National Salvation Front (NSF) that it would boycott the meeting because of reservations over security arrangements at Beirut airport, the proposed venue. At a press conference in Al-Mukhtarah reported by Damascus radio, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt called the airport unsafe and proposed that the talks be held abroad, suggesting Cyprus, Tunis, Geneva, or a Greek ship as possible locations. Junblatt said the Lebanese Government should have obtained the approval of all the conferees before announcing the venue of the meeting and addressing invitations.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami likewise announced that the northern NSF leaders would not attend the meeting at Beirut airport and called on the government to consult with all parties to arrange another venue, according to remarks broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon. Karami made his statement after holding talks with Walid Junblatt's envoy Marwan Hamadah, who also met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah, the radio noted.

In another development, the Security Arrangements Committee did not hold its scheduled meeting on 19 October because the NSF representative failed to arrive, Beirut radio reported.

Military/Security Situation — Two Marines and a Lebanese security guard were wounded in Beirut when a carbomb exploded near a U.S. patrol in the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy, Beirut radio reported. Lebanese Army positions in southern Beirut, Suq al-Gharb, and elsewhere were subjected to renewed sniper fire while clashes continued further south in the Al-Kharrub region, the radio said. A Lebanese soldier was killed in further fighting in southern Beirut early on 20 October, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, an Amal Movement official reaffirmed Amal's adherence to the cease-fire and blamed "other parties" for the cease-fire violations in the southern suburb, Beirut radio reported.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Central Committee has decided to hold a Fatah general congress in January and has chosen a preparatory committee which will begin its work forthwith, the Central Committee announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. A conference of Fatah regional offices will be convened early in November to submit proposals to the preparatory committee, the statement noted. The Central Committee strongly criticized the "putschist dissident movement against Fatah" but declared its earnest desire to halt the rival propaganda campaigns provided this includes "all the other sides, including certain Arab sides." The statement noted critically that the recent PLO mediation committee had called for an end to propaganda campaigns against Syria without referring to Syria's own propaganda campaigns against the PLO leadership. The Central Committee declared its commitment to prevent any inter-Palestinian or Arab-Palestinian fighting "except in self-defense." The statement, which was issued in Kuwait but was approved by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, denounced criticism of 'Arafat's role in the recent factional fighting in Tripoli, accusing certain Lebanese and Palestinian leaders of making judgments without knowing the facts.

The Central Committee also reaffirmed Fatah's rejection of the Reagan plan and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and its adherence to PNC resolutions.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan* reported by KUNA, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf proposed a "democratic divorce" between the dissidents and the Fatah leadership, asserting that attempts to mediate the internal dispute have failed and that a political split would be better than the current bloodshed. Nevertheless, the dissidents are still welcome to participate in the Fatah general congress, Khalaf said, but if they refuse to take part they will be expelled from the movement. Khalaf accused the Syrian regime of planning to "liquidate" the PLO leadership.

Responding to Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) General Commander Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra's rejection of 'Arafat's leadership, PLA commanders in Amman and Tunis denounced Al-Khadra's move while PLA commanders in Lebanon called on 'Arafat to dismiss Al-Khadra from his position as commander of the Hittin forces, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO and North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radios.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that a force comprised of the special airborne force, revolution guards, and Muslim peshmerga penetrated 30 km into Iraq in the northern zone, inflicting "considerable" casualties on Iraqi forces and destroying six bases. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claims, according to INA.

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique transmitted by INA stated that at midnight on 19-20 October Iran launched an offensive aimed at Panjwin, in the northern zone. The communique said the Iraqi I Army Corps stopped the offensive short of its objective but also noted that the battle is continuing.

Iran

A Mojahedin-e Khalq communique issued in Paris, reported by the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio, stated that in recent fighting in Kordestan over 100 revolution guards were killed while government forces lost their foothold in the Sar Dasht region.

Reaction to Jordanian RDF

Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, stated that he had no objection to the United States helping Jordan form a rapid deployment force, on the condition that Jordan come to an agreement or at least begin negotiations to improve relations with Israel. Meanwhile, Damascus radio cited Israeli radio as stressing that the U.S. Administration "insists" on forming a Jordanian military force for deployment in the Gulf region.

A commentary by Tehran radio's Arabic service asserted that the U.S. goal behind the formation of the force is to "enclose the Islamic region" in a "military belt" starting in Lebanon and ending in Oman in order to ensure its capability for rapid "interference" in the Gulf region. Similarly, the Kuwaiti *Al-Anba'*, cited by KUNA, denounced Washington's announcement of a special budget for the force.

Gulf States

The UAE newspapers *Al-Fajr* and *Al-Wadah* "warned against" Secretary of State Shultz' statements on navigation in the Gulf, together with the resulting political and economic arrangements, according to WAM.

Israel

Attacking government financial policy under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, opposition MK's presented motions of no confidence to the Knesset, where they were defeated by a vote of 61 to 54, Jerusalem and IDF radios reported. In an separate report, Jerusalem radio noted that Finance Ministry Director General Professor 'Ezra Sadan resigned but was asked to remain in office for another 3 months.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Baghdad VOP Reports Fatah CC Statement

JN191800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1602 GMT 19 Oct 83

["Text" of Fatah Central Committee statement issued in Kuwait on 18 October — read by announcer]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee met in Kuwait on 16 October 1983. All members were present with the exception of our brothers in Tripoli [Lebanon] with whom consultations were held during the meeting on urgent issues. They were informed about the decisions issued by the Committee and have agreed on them. The Fatah Central Committee discussed all the problems facing the Palestinian cause, the PLO, and the Fatah movement, and decided, given the current circumstances, to deal with and confront the various issues as follows:

1. The Palestinian Masses' Position:

The Fatah Central Committee has been observing the Palestinian masses' firm and clear position toward the crisis that the PLO and the Fatah movement are facing — a crisis represented by the recent attempts at containing the PLO and usurping the Palestinian national decisionmaking. This could have been effected by taking over the Fatah movement through the rebellion and split within Fatah in Al-Biqa'.

The crisis has shown the high place Fatah and the PLO enjoy in the Palestinian people's hearts, consciences, and minds. Events have shown our masses' courageous, pioneering stand in condemning the split and in rejecting the trusteeship over and containment of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. They expressed their rejection of any external interference in PLO affairs and their full adherence to the Palestinian legitimate leadership under the PLO Executive Committee and its chairman, Brother Yasir 'Arafat. During the recent painful events, the Palestinian masses have been the barrier that foiled the plan to contain the Palestinian legitimacy, usurp its independent national decisionmaking, and destroy the gains of these people's long struggle that is being preserved and protected by their legitimate leadership. This extremely strong and clear Palestinian mass response increases our confidence in the correct Palestinian line represented by the Palestinian National Council's resolutions.

The Fatah Central Committee affirms its absolute commitment to the Palestinian people's aims and interests. It stresses its cooperation with those Palestinian organizations that are committed to the PLO on the basis of full adherence in word and deed to the PNC resolutions leading us toward the final goals of return, liberation, and establishing the democratic Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

2. The Imperialist-Zionist Onslaught and its Central Aim:

The Committee affirms that the central idea in U.S. and Zionist policy is to avoid recognizing the Palestinian sons as Arab Palestinian people struggling to regain their national rights usurped by the force of international terrorism that was practiced by the colonialists under British leadership and was then practiced by world imperialism under U.S. leadership. This policy is the only explanation for the U.S. Government's refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and of establishing their independent state on their national soil. This refusal was manifested in U.S. President Reagan's initiative.

The Palestinian people, through the stand of the PLO and its backbone, Fatah, as well as the resolutions of the PNC, have rejected, are rejecting, and will reject any stand which does not stem from the Palestinian people's right to return, to determine their destiny, and to establish their independent state on their national soil. This rejection has been and will remain the main obstacle to peddling the U.S.-Zionist capitulation policy, which seeks to shelve the Palestine question before the Palestinian people have regained their inalienable national rights.

This legitimate Palestinian rejection has prompted U.S.-Zionist plans to strike at the PLO and its backbone Fatah. The Zionist invasion of Lebanon was a step toward the political and physical liquidation of the Palestinian revolution and a link in a long chain of plots to kill the Palestinian people's struggle spirit by directly striking at Palestinian legitimacy and Fatah, which is considered the strong pillar of this legitimacy.

But the steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian struggler and the solidarity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory with their legitimate leadership have deprived the enemies of the revolution of the opportunity to liquidate the PLO politically and physically, despite what happened in Lebanon, which was due to the unusual imbalance of power and the negative Arab attitude during the aggression. The political results of that invasion have increased world public respect, sympathy, and appreciation for the Palestinian struggle, and have gained more support for the national rights of the Palestinian people.

In light of these results, efforts should have then been solely devoted to reorganizing the various Palestinian institutions, especially the military struggle institution. Instead, we faced new attempts to contain the PLO and its independent national Palestinian decisionmaking.

3. The Putschist Dissident Movement Against Fatah:

All Arab attempts to influence the Palestinian people and their leadership have failed, thanks to the lessons learned from past experience. Thus, the Palestinian people have continued to adhere to the independent Palestinian political identity, especially in the international arena, through the independent Palestinian decisionmaking that is based on coordination and consultation with the Arab states, Arab unanimity represented by Arab summit resolutions, and Palestinian unanimity represented by Palestinian National Council resolutions. Several Arab attempts have been made to restrict the political freedom of the PLO and to create a split within the organization [words indistinct]. The last of these attempts was the one that took place in 1978 in Lebanon. All these split movements have failed due to the inability of those behind them to ensure direct outside protection for their movements.

As for the putschist dissident movement that occurred last June in Al-Biqa', it had direct outside protection in very complicated

circumstances such as those that attended our departure from Beirut. Therefore. this puschist dissident movement was most harmful because it not only sought to contain the Fatah movement, control the PLO, and consequently confiscate the Palestinian national decisionmaking, but it had, wittingly or unwittingly, pursued the same objectives as U.S. and Zionist policy that are completely hostile to the Palestinian people, their just cause, and their heroic struggle. The murderer Sharon confirmed this fact when he described the putchist dissident movement as one of the fruits of the invasion, which he called the Peace for Galilee Operation. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz also made a statement in New Delhi in which he said that he was pleased with what was taking place in Al-Biqa'. All the hostile media, whether Western or Zionist, maintained a similar attitude when they considered what took place in Al-Biqa' as the collapse of the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat's leadership.

The Palestinian people in all their locations under the occupation and in the diaspora have rejected these events in Al-Biqa', showing complete awareness and realization of the threats of containment lying behind these events that have caused pain to these valiant people. These events have also threatened to undermine the accomplishments of these people's struggle and have shaken the confidence our people had won when the world recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and when the PLO occupied a seat in the United Nations as well as in other international and regional organizations.

This dissident putschist movement has been a tool to fulfill what the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the U.S. attempts, and the Arab containment attempts have failed to achieve. The effort that should have been exerted to reconstruct the PLO and Fatah institutions, to rearrange plans and organizations to cope with the requirements of the new phase of continuing the Palestinian armed struggle in our occupied Palestine, and to reactivate the Palestinian political struggle in the international arena to benefit from the the world sympathy with the glorious Palestinian resistance in the face of the Zionist invasion, has been directed toward safeguarding the Palestinian militant identity in the Palestinian and Arab arenas in order to foil the design of containment, the confiscation of Palestinian legitimacy and the independent national decisionmaking, and the PLO's exclusive right to represent the Palestinian people.

4. Dealing With the Dissident Putschist Movement:

Since the dangers of the dissident putschist movement have reached this level of destruction, and since the Palestinian people have been aware of these dangers since the beginning of this movement, it has become necessary to end this dissident putschist movement through democratic dialogue. But the dissidents rejected dialogue on the level of the Central Committee as well as on the level of the administrative and military cadres. Their rejection came in light of the outside protection.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council met in implementation of the decision it adopted during its seventh session in Aden to discuss the movement's internal situation. Once again the Council found itself facing the dissident putschist movement in Al-Biqa'. The Revolutionary Council intended to toke the necessary measures regarding the dissidents and the movement's internal law. However, the Revolutionary Council decided to condemn this dissident putschist movement and authorized the movement's Central Committee to adopt the measures it finds appropriate to tackle this dissension and end it.

The Central Committee noted the Palestinian people's conscious and clear stand on condemning the dissension. Palestinian and Arab delegations then followed in an attempt to arrange a meeting with the dissidents, following which a democratic dialogue may begin to end the dissension. This has clearly revealed the high position Fatah enjoys in the hearts of our people and the Arab nation's masses. Because of that, and in accordance with the policy Fatah has been following since its establishment, namely to avoid the use of arms in the Palestinian arena, the Central Committee saw that it should withhold its measures until the results of the Arab and Palestinian mediations are known. If the mediations succeed in ending the dissension and bringing those who led the dissension to the [Palestinian] legitimacy, then this will meet the Central Committee's hopes and objectives. Otherwise, the movement's internal law will provide the Central Committee with the necessary methods to face the situation. Besides, the mediations will further expose the realities of the situation.

At the same time, we made every possible effort to reach an understanding with Syria through dialogue in order to discover the points of differences, if there are any, so we can restore normal relations with it. We regretfully state that all the Palestinian, Arab, and international mediations have so far failed. The latest of these mediations was the one carried out by the 18-man committee formed by a decision of the PLO Central Council. We accepted this despite the Palestinian blood shed by the dissidents in Al-Biqa'.

Although this esteemed committee exerted appreciated efforts, it hastened to announce its opinion before it reached a final understanding. In spite of this, we studied the committee's opinion with the necessary objectivity. We also presented to it a clear practical proposal that will end the dissension if there is good will.

Our proposal was as follows:

A. The formation of a joint committee composed of the dissidents and the Fatah Central Committee to examine the organizational, military, and financial affairs with a view to considering whatever reform is needed and taking all necessary measures for such reform;

B. The Central Committee shall carry out the joint committee's recommendations forthwith or as each recommendation is made;

C. Regarding the political statement requested by the 18-man committee, the Fatah movement's Revolutionary Council has already pledged that it abides by the resolutions of the PNC, which rejects the Reagan initiative.

It is regrettable that the 18-man committee had barely started its mediation when the situation erupted anew in different ways, such as the military clash in Damascus following the forced occupation of the Fatah bureaus. Ibrahim Bakr was not able to

meet with Brothers Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] in Tripoli. Therefore, he returned to Amman. Those committee members in Amman issued their final statement on 12 October 1983 in Amman. They announced in this statement that they would continue their missions if positive stands became available. We have several observations to make on the final statement, but we will not make them now. We will simply note that the statement called for the suspension of overt and covert propaganda campaigns against Syria without making any reference to Syria's own propaganda campaigns. An Arab attempt is currently under way to tackle the crisis caused by the dissidence. The results of this mediation are expected to be known some time this week. In light of these results the Central Committee will hold a special meeting at the end of this month to reveal to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation what they should know and the correct stand that must be adopted.

5. Recent Incidents in Tripoli:

It was obvious that the purpose of the recent tension and sedition in Tripoli was to embarrass the Fatah movement and drown it in the labyrinth of that sedition prior to finding excuses to take action against it, after the people and the Fatah movement's mature and responsible attitude have foiled many such attempts in the past. Perhaps the aim of the recent incidents in Tripoli between the communists and the Islamic groups was to portray Fatah as a movement which has abandoned its nature as a national liberation movement against the Zionist enemy and U.S. policy and sought instead to side with one Lebanese side against another. Undoubtedly the objective was to strike at Fatah's relationship with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement prior to launching a new attack on the Fatah forces. It is regrettable that certain Lebanese and Palestinian leaderships have volunteered to make their own judgments even before knowing the role Brother Abu 'Ammar played personally in checking the aggravation of the sedition and bloodshed, and in prevailing on the concerned Lebanese sides, with the help of Rashid Karami, to agree to prevent the recurrence of the resort to arms.

The Central Committee acknowledged Brother Abu 'Ammar's action in dispatching cables to several quarters, especially our brothers in the PDRY, and asking for factfinding committees to investigate the honorable role played by Fatah to end the bloody incidents in Tripoli.

6. The Political Stand:

The Central Committee discussed the general political situation, including the setback sustained by the Palestine question due to the dissident movement and the official Arab silence over this movement. The Central Committee also discussed the recent events in Lebanon and their impact on the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict in general. The committee decided to affirm the continuation of its previous stands vis-a-vis this conflict as follows:

A. Rejection of the Camp David accords and their outcome, including the rejection of the autonomy plot and the resistance of this plot by all possible means;

B. Rejection of President Reagan's initiative and the mere discussion of any initiative from whatever quarter that does not stem from the Palestinian people's right to return, determine their own destiny, and establish their independent state;

C. Adherence to the PNC's political and organizational resolutions;

D. Rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and considering its success a plot against the Palestine question through the success of the policies of the United States and the Zionist enemy in enforcing the U.S.-Israeli peace policy on the Arab nation under the slogan of a false peace which ends with the liquidation of the Palestine question.

The Central Committee also decided the following:

A. To express greetings and appreciation to our steadfast people in the occupied territories and the diaspora for their stand in protecting and guarding the PLO through their adherence to it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, their insistence on preserving its unity and independence, their rejection of all of the divisive actions in the Palestinian arena and their rejection of any interference in Fatah and PLO internal affairs;

B. To call on the Arab masses to voice their support for the PLO, for preserving its unity and the unity of the Fatah movement, and for rejecting all attempts at containing the PLO and imposing trusteeship over it from anybody, except the Palestinian people, in any form including the methods of splits and occupation that took place in Al-Biqa' recently;

C. Stemming from its concern about the soundness of its positions, the Arab solidarity, and the soundness of the Palestinian march, the Central Committee declares its earnest desire to stop the propaganda campaigns, provided this included all the other sides, including certain Arab sides;

D. The Central Committee declares its commitment to preventing any inter-Palestinian or Arab-Palestinian fighting except in self-defense. It declares its commitment to supporting the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, all the Lebanese forces that resist the Zionist occupation of Lebanon and work for its expulsion from the Lebanese territory, and all forces which work for the unity of the Lebanese people and territory within the framework of the Lebanese reconciliation that preserves Lebanon's sovereingty and Arab affiliation;

E. The Fatah movement affirms the continuation of friendly relations with the socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR, and their firm stand on the PLO and its legitimate leadership, as well as their continued support for our Palestinian people's struggle.

7. The Fatah Movement's Internal Situation:

The Committee discussed the steps taken so far to carry out Central Committee resolutions on implementing the principles approved by the Fatah Revolutionary Council on the movement's internal situation aimed at reform, development, and increasing

the efficiency of the Fatah bodies. The committee heard reports on the achievements of the movement's supervision committee and stressed the need to speed up the appointment of the movement's supervision council so that it can begin its work within the next 2 weeks.

The Committee also adopted the following decisions:

A. To hold the conference of regional offices during the first week of November 1983 so that its proposals may be a basis for the Fatah movement's general congress preparatory committee;

B. To hold the movement's general congress in January 1984;

C. The general congress preparatory committee has been chosen so it can begin its work forthwith;

D. To send delegations from the movement to Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Algeria, Morocco, Aden, and San'a' with tasks concerning the current political situation, and to learn about our people's problems, the requirments of our people and forces, and the necessary measures to deal with them;

E. To establish a branch for the mobilization and organization office in Kuwait and another in Tunis to facilitate and organize dealings with the Fatah organization in the world and to develope Fatah activities and efficiency.

It is a revolution until victory.

Salah Khalaf Meets PDRY President in Aden

NC192110 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] PDRY — Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Aden last night at the head of a Fatah movement delegation comprised of Brother Abu Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Brother Fakhr Abu Nizar, secretary of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah movement.

The Palestinian delegation met with PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and briefed him on the true conditions through which the Palestinian issue is passing, particularly the plot to which the PLO is being exposed and the attempts to cause a rift in it. The Palestinian delegation also met with the brother secretary generals George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah as well as the leaders of the Arab progressive and nationalist parties who are present in Aden to take part in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the victory of the revolution in the PDRY.

Denies Kuwaiti Newspaper Report

NC200843 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] In Kuwait, Brother Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, denied a report published in the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Watan yesterday quoting him as saying that the legitimate* Palestinian command of Fatah is prepared to leave the name of the movement to the dissidents. He affirmed that Fatah is the property of the Palestinian people and its fighters under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. Brother Abu Iyad told the Kuwaiti newspaper that the Syrian regime is scheming to liquidate the Palestinian legitimacy, especially Brother Abu 'Ammar. He informed the newspaper that he will meet in Aden with George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah to discuss and coordinate in light of the current Syrian plotting against the Palestinian revolution.

Praises Mubarak, Raps Syria

NC200915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA) — Senior PLO leader Salah Khalaf praised President Husni Mubarak, saying he has opened vistas of hope for the Palestinians. Abu Iyad said he hopes that President Mubarak and the Egyptian people will rise and again hold the true leadership of the Arab nation. This leadership was lost after certain parties tried to banish Egypt from its leading role.

In a statement to the magaizine *Al-Musawwar*, Khalaf referred to Syria's current attempt to destroy the PLO. Since the Israeli aggression failed to achieve its goals, Syria is undertaking this task on its behalf. He said the most dangerous thing in this is that Syria is wearing Palestinian gloves to fight the Palestinian revolution. He further said the crisis that the PLO is undergoing is only a passing cloud which will end like other crises; it needs time to pass like everything else.

Khalaf said there are three reasons for the Arab silence over what is happening to the Palestinian people: First, certain Arab regimes do not want to enter a battle with Syria; second, there is a group of Arab countries that have interests with the Syrians; and third, some Arab countries support or collude with Syria, or are happy with what is happening.

He said the forthcoming Arab summit conference, despite the hopes pinned on it, will not solve Arab differences in the usual way, but will try to postpone the basic differences and problems and indulge in peripheral problems. Concluding his statement, he affirmed that no Arab ruler can remove Abu 'Ammar, the PLO leader, from leading the PLO. He said if the Syrian regime wants this, it will have to take a risk and wait a long time at Tripoli's gates.

Palestinian Source on Al-Khadra Statement

NC191645 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has explained that the Hittin forces, which are composed of Palestinian conscripts residing in Syria, have been operationally subordinate to the Syrian General Staff since 1973, and have not been under legitimate Palestinian command since 1976. Tariq al-Khadra, who was appointed by Syrian intelligence as commander of these forces, has been subordinate to Syria since the events of 1976, following the dismissal and escape of his predecessor Misbah al-Budayri in the wake of the army's mutiny against orders issued by Damascus to attack the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon.

In a statement he made to WAFA, the source described Tariq al-Khadra's television statement that the Hittin forces have been placed at the disposal of the dissidents and the Jibril group, as an open and exposed Syrian call for inter-Palestinian fighting. He said that less than 2 hours after the Al-Khadra statement, the As-Sa'iqah organization command issued a statement in which it announced its break from Palestinian legitimacy. The full responsibility of Syrian intelligence for the plot which has been going on for 4 months is manifested in these two statements.

The responsible Palestinian source added that these two statements show the loss of patience by the Syrian leadership and its effort to complete their plots before the Arab summit. The source said that through these comic and theatrical actions, Syrian intelligence is exploding the mines which it planted in the body of the revolution for this particular day. He warned that this ferocious information campaign which has accompanied the continued imposition of the siege on Tripoli, constitutes a prelude to the Syrian leadership paving the way for political and military moves. The source did not rule out the possibility that Syrian intelligence will carry out a mad plan against the Palestinian revolution as part of an ugly U.S. plot. He expected major political pressure to be exerted on certain Palestinian parties to prompt them to break away from legitimacy.

The Palestinian source concluded that the hands that made Beirut steadfast will not be affected by the pressures and sabotage. The body and will of the revolution are purified as the masks fall from the faces of the agents of the regimes who have hindered the march and tried to sabotage it throughout the past years.

PLA Commander in Jordan Hits Al-Khadra Statement

JN192130 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1556 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] in Jordan — Badr forces — held a press conference in Amman this afternoon in which he revealed the dimensions of the Syrian decision influencing the step taken by Colonel Tariq al-Khadra, which has come within the continued Syrian attempts to liquidate the PLO. Al-Khatib expressed the Badr forces' support of the Palestinian legitimacy represented by the PLO and its leader Brother Abu 'Ammar. He sent a cable to Brother Abu 'Ammar to this effect. The following is the text of this cable:

In my name and the name of all the PLA Badr forces in Jordan, I extend sincere greetings of the revolution to our commander in chief. Grudges of plotters against the Palestinian revolution have appeared and the accusations of these plotters continue against our loyal men, the last of which was Tariq al-Khadra's statement that was broadcast from Damascus Radio, spouting fallacies and allegations against our commander in chief and denying his legality. While we feel deeply saddened about the behavior of some Palestinians who were influenced by the enemies of our Palestinian revolution. We affirm that we will remain the strong supporter of our commander who represents the true Palestinian revolution, and declare our rejection of any frivolous behavior. Those hands that secretly strike at the Palestinian revolution while openly expressing concern over the Palestine question are treacherous hands, which in 1976 struck at the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon and participated with the Zionist and Maronite enemies in striking at our sons and kinfolk in Tal az-Za'tar. Those hands are still plotting against our fighters. They began first in Lebanon, then in Syria, and now in Lebanon where they reinforced the besiegement of the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps in order to repeat their crimes of 1976.

We denounce all the decisions that are adopted by any party which encroach on your leadership. We reject and challenge such decisions. We said before that the PLA forces wherever they are must not be involved in any conflict between the Fatah comrades in arms because we consider this conflict an internal discord in the movement that must be solved according to movement rules and laws. Now, since it has been proven to us that the command of Hittin forces in Syria, although we do not recognize it, has become a cart in the hands of the Syrian commanders who direct it wherever they want, even to the extent of striking at the brothers in the camps and the Palestinian revolution, declaring through Tariq al-Khadra the day before yesterday its dropping of the legality of the commander in chief, and rebelling against the legitimate command, we openly declare to the whole world, particularly the Palestinian people and the Palestinians carrying arms, that we are still adhering to our correct course and will not permit any non-Palestinian side to interfere in the affairs of our army and revolution. We are the owners of the independent Palestinian decisionmking for whose sake we sacrificed and offered hundreds of martyrs. We support the legitimacy and our commander Brother Abu 'Ammar. We will pursue our true struggle until the victory is achieved when all the Palestinian soil is restored. Proceed with God's blessing. May God be with you. Proceed forward and we will follow. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the PLA Badr forces in Jordan

Sudan Commander Raps Statement

JN191555 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA) — Staff Colonel Abu Hani, commander of the Palestinian steadfast Beirut forces in Sudan, has sent a cable to Yasir 'Arafat, commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and PLO Executive Committee chairman, in which he condemned Tariq al-Khadra's statement which does not recognize the Palestinian people's legality to select the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. He said that this statement was made by a person who originally did not have the minimum legitimacy, because Al-Khadra is known for his subordination to the Syrian intelligence organ. He affirmed that the PLA firmly rejects all the conspiracies which are stabbing the legitimacy of the Palestinian people in selecting the chairman, leader, and commander of their course and revolution, Abu 'Ammar.

Abu Hani said that Tariq al-Khadra and his supporters must know that they have no place among the revolutionaries and fighters. He added that the PLO commander, officers, and

soldiers in Sudan denounce the conspiratorial action against the Palestinian people's cause, and reaffirmed the stand of the PLA in Sudan at Abu 'Ammar's disposal.

PLA Commanders in Tunis Comment

JN191806 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In Tunis, two ranking Palestinian officers have announced that the position of Brigadier General Tariq al-Khadra, commander of the Hittin forces, that follow the orders of the Syrian Army's staff, is a Syrian position that was dictated to him to deepen the internecine Palestinian difference and split the PLO'S unity. Therefore, this position did not surprise anyone.

Lieutenent Colonel 'Abd al-Fattah al-Ju'aydi, commander of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Forces in Tunisia and Lebanon, and his assistant Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Husayn have praised the Palestine Liberation Army's courage in all its heroic battles against the Zionist enemy, including the Zionist siege of Beirut.

In a press conference in Tunis today, the two officers asserted that the PLO refuses to be an obedient tool in the Syrian regime's hands, and that it will continue to defend its people and their just cause and the Arab nation. The two Palestinian officers recalled a similar decision that Brigadier General Musbah Al-Budayri, former chief of staff, made in 1976 and his consequent arrest by his forces when he ordered them to attack the Palestinian revolution's forces in Leabnon in accordance with a Syrian decision. They said that Brother Abu 'Ammar forgave him and released him at that time. The two officers added: The same defeatist position is repeated, but our confidence in our brothers and sons in our hero army will not be shaken. They added that forces that are aware of the right way of their rifles, people, and martyrs will not obey other than the orders of the legitimate leadership of our people and revolution.

Palestinian Command Denouncement

NC201004 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Statement by the General Command of the Palestinian revolution forces issued on 19 October]

[Text] Syrian media carried a statement issued by the so-called Colonel Tariq al-Khadra, who falsely assumed the title of the chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA]. The revolution command is interested in explaining the folowing:

1. The said officer was one of the hangmen who fled from Tripoli in 1971 after he raised arms against his people and revolution. Afterward, the Syrian intelligence service appointed him — without orders or approval — as commander of the Hittin forces stationed in Syria. These forces have been operationally subordinate to the Syrian staff since the October 1973 war.

2. The said officer and his masters know that the PLO spends monthly on these forces over 5 million [Syrian] pounds, which go to the treasury of the Syrian staff, which in turn spends the funds on these forces. This is in addition to the weapons, vehicles, and equipment dispensed to these forces, whether from the stock which the revolution placed as a trust in the arsenals of the Syrian Army, or from the consignments which the forces received directly from Latakia Port, Beirut, and Al-Biqa'.

3. The said officer by making this declaration has placed himself in the rank of agents and traitors, who are disavowing their people, stabbing their legitimate leadership, and giving a helping hand to the plot to fragment the PLO and its military and political unity.

4. The Syrian military command is held responsible for this declaration made by this officer because the Hittin forces have been operationally subordinate to the Syrian staff since the October 1973 war. The Syrian military command is militarily and morally responsible for these forces, and the Syrian staff is directly responsible for any deviation or indiscipline in the command of these forces.

5. This officer's declaration was directly instigated by the Syrian intelligence service. It thus increasingly reveals the conspiratorial plan this service is hatching to strike at the Palestinian people, their revolution, and the PLO — the leader of their struggle. It is a continuous plot which unmasks the suspect role of this service in all that is happening in our Palestinian arena.

6. The strange statements by General Talas, who has publicly involved himself in this subject, have increasingly revealed the complete and continuous involvement of these Syrian services in the plot to strike at the PLO as part of the U.S.-Syrian agreement. This agreement was reported by U.S. media, which revealed that the price for this agreement is the head of the Palestinian revolution, and the PLO's political and military existence. This was also revealed by the surprising statement issued by the Syrian As-Sa'iqah organization — a statement which was replete with lies and fabrications, but which added fuel to the fire started by the Syrian intelligence service in the Palestinian arena.

Palestinian Commander Cables 'Arafat

JN191919 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1633 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a cable from Brigadier General Mansur ash-Sharif, commander of 'Ayn Jalut forces. The following is the text of the cable:

Brother Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar, in these difficult circumstances through which our revolution is passing and in light of the conspiracies that are being concocted to liquidate the Palestinian legitimacy, we, 'Ayn Jalut's officers and soliders and the fifth group, condemn Brigadier General Tariq al-Khadra's deviationist measures, and we will remain in support of the Palestinian revolution's armed struggle by rallying around you as the leader of the march in order to preserve our revolution's independence. We wish you success.

Qaddumi Arrives in Kuwait, Answers Questions

NC192118 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In Kuwait, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah and discussed the current situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. Brother Abu al-Lutf arrived in Kuwait the day before yesterday on an official visit. At the airport, he replied to newsmen's questions.

To a question about the statements of George Hawi, leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, in which he accused the Fatah movement of involvement in the Tripoli events, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that these statements are far from reality. George Hawi fell victim to wrong influences and information. The biggest proof of the nonparticipation of Fatah in the fighting is the statements of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the leaders of the national movement in Tripoli, who praised the efforts exerted by Brother Abu 'Ammar to stop the fighting.

Brother Abu al-Lutf affirmed that the Fatah movement maintains and will continue to maintain close relations with its allies in the Lebanese National Movement. It exerts every effort for the unity of these forces in a broad front to confront the plots being hatched by the United States and Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The head of the PLO Political Department also affirmed that the Fatah movement provides political and military support to the Lebanese National Forces because this is part of our duty toward these forces to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of the plot.

Commenting on the joint working paper announced by the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the Fatah movement under the leadership of Brother Abu 'Ammar supports all national unionist efforts and every democratic reform in the Palestinian arena within the legitimate frameworks.

Regarding the Arab situation, Brother Abu al-Lutf stressed the need to unite the Arab efforts. He affirmed that the Arabs are scheduled to hold a summit and all the prerequisites of success must be provided for this summit.

Regarding relations with Jordan, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the organization's relations with Jordan are continuing as they were, and there is nothing new in them.

Meets USSR's Kuwait Ambassador

JN191730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, met in Kuwait yesterday with the USSR ambassador. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. The USSR ambassador assured Brother Abu al-Lutf of the USSR's firm and principled stand supporting the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The ambassador underlined the USSR's stand backing the PLO and its struggle to safeguard its unity and independent decisionmaking in order to fulfill the Palestinian people's objectives of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Abu al-Lutf briefed the USSR ambassador on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. He spoke highly of the friendly USSR's firm support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

PLO'S Khalil al-Hasan Arrives in Jidda

LD181946 Riyadh SPA in English 1902 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Jidda, Oct 18 SPA — Khalid al-Hasan, the political adviser of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, arrived here tonight from Kuwait for a visit to Saudi Arabia. Al-Hasan participated in an emergency meeting of Fatah's Central Committee held in Kuwait yesterday.

Fatah Official Raps Anti-PLO Syrian Practices

JN191012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — Fatah Central Committee member Salih az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, has said: We are aware of the fact that Iraq rejects all attempts to weaken the PLO and that it strongly supports the PLO's legitimate leadership under Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement to the magazine *Alif Ba'*, published here today, Abu al-Adib added that the Syrian regime is doing what the Israelis have failed to do. He stressed that the Syrian regime is incapable of confronting Israel and said: It seems that this regime is giving priority to Lebanon, believing that this country should be partitioned. The Israelis, too, believe in this theory. Abu al-Adib indicated that many analysts who are familiar with international secrets say that a bargain was struck between the Syrian regime and the United States based on evacuating the Palestinians from Lebanon and giving Syria a free hand in Lebanon.

Arab Committee Praises Jordanian King's Stand

JN191327 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Amman — The Higher Arab Committee for Palestine has praised His Majesty King Husayn's directives and call for the need to be alert and cautious toward the designs and conspiracies concocted against the Arab nation and its interests. It also praised the King's warning of attempts to undermine the Palestinian legitimacy represented by the PLO, because these attempts pose dangers to the safety of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's national rights.

In a statement issued today, the Committee called on all the Palestinians to confront these attempts, abort all the designs which are plotted against the Palestinian people and their cause, and stand firmly by the Palestinian legitimacy. The Committee condemned the hesitant stands in support of Iraq which are adopted by some Arab countries and also these countries' support

of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. It called on the whole Arab nation to support Iraq through action because this support will end the Gulf war.

'Text' of 'Arafat Cable to Andropov Reported

NC101452 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Oct 83

["Text" of cable from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, to Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the occasion of 66th anniversary of the October Revolution]

[Text] To Comrade Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium:

It gives me pleasure, on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the victory of the great and glorious socialist October Revolution, to send to you, on behalf of the Palestinian people, the PLO Executive Committee, and my own behalf, sincere greetings to you, to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and the great Soviet people. I wish you, Dear Comrade Andropov, good health, and I wish the Soviet people further progress and prosperity under your wise and courageous leadership.

Dear Comrade, you undoubtedly share our view that our area has been facing vicious imperialist-Zionist attacks in past years. Foremost in the priorities of this attack stands the undermining of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and achievements.

The experience of our people has proved that through Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO and through the support of the fraternal and friendly forces, led by the Soviet Union, it has been possible to overcome all plots, difficulties, and the dangerous stages through which we have passed. Hence, we fully hope that our friend the Soviet Union, its friendly peoples, and its president, Comrade Andropov, will give the PLO and the Palestinian people every support and aid to overcome this difficult stage in the history of our Palestinian people. Big imperialist, Zionist, and agent forces are ganging against us, employing various methods, in an attempt to undermine the rights of this people and to usurp their political achievements and gains on the Arab and international levels, which are represented by the PLO.

Dear Comrade, the PLO, which stands in the forefront of the Arab and international liberation movement, in practice, reaffirms to you its determination to stand in the same trench with the Soviet Union and the forces of peace, democracy, and progress in the world. We are constantly working to consolidate this alliance on the basis of the joint struggle against Zionism and imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism.

We, Dear Comrade, highly value and will never forget the continuous support the Soviet Union is giving to the PLO, which was manifested yesterday through your appeal in your historic speech on the anniversary of the glorious October Revolution concerning the Palestinian people, the justness of their national rights, and the importance of international solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle as an international duty toward all strugglers for freedom, progress, and peace. Our people have received this principled stance with great appreciation and gratitude for the Soviet friend, who stands firmly with the causes of our nation and people inside and outside the occupied land.

Long live the friendship between the Palestinian and the Soviet peoples. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Chiefs of Staff Plan Report to Summit

GF191400 Kuwait Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm in Arabic 18 Oct 83 p 1

[Mahbub al-'Abdallah dispatch from Riyadh]

[Excerpt] The chiefs of staff of the GCC armies will hold two meetings today to discuss questions of coordination in the military and defensive fields among the GCC states, especially after the joint military exercises concluded in the UAE 2 days ago.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah told *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm that in light of the questions discussed at these* two meetings a comprehensive military report will be prepared, which will be submitted to the fourth GCC summit conference to be held in Qatar next month. He said that the report will deal in particular with the formation of a joint GCC deployment force.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Departs for Tunisia 20 Oct

GF200949 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifa ibn Salman al-Khalifa left Manama for Tunis this morning on a 4-day official visit in response to an invitation from Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS Views Possible U.S. Mideast Initiative

GF191116 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas has commented on reports being disseminated about* a new U.S. initiative that will coincide with the approach of the Arab summit conference. The paper describes this initiative as a trial ballon designed to divert the attention of the Arab nation away from the catastrophic situation it is experiencing.

The paper stresses that U.S. policy has not changed from the time when U.S. President Ronald Reagan launched his initiative — the ominous one — prior to the convening of the second Fes summit. This initiative resulted in a further rift in Arab ranks in general and in the Palestinian ranks in particular. The paper points out that the issue of the representation of the Palestinians is not a U.S. right that is subject to the U.S. mood. Concluding, the paper says that the failure of the Reagan plan can be attributed to the fact that it neither recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights nor does it recognize the PLO as the sole and the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

QATAR

AR-RAYAH Questions U.S. Stand on Gulf War

GF191050 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH) — The Qatari newspaper *Ar-Rayah has criticized the U.S. stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war.* The paper refers to the statement made by the White House spokesman to the effect that the sole goal of the United States is to end the war. The paper says that this claim of U.S. neutrality exposes the traditional policy of Washington, which is based on encouraging traditional wars in order to preserve its interests.

The paper continues that experience with the U.S. role in crises and wars shows that Washington has never been neutral, either in the Gulf war or in other areas of tension in the world. The paper continues by referring to the traditional role which the U.S. mentality has played in exploding disputes in other parts of the world in order to create the optimum conditions for its interference under false allegations.

UAE

Shultz Statement on Gulf Navigation Examined

GF190915 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (WAM) — Two UAE papers today commented on the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on navigation in the Gulf and his allusion to using the RDF. The papers warned against these statements and against the resulting political and economic arrangements.

Al-Fajr says that the dangers that threaten the Gulf region "can basically become imminent in the event of U.S. or Soviet interference in this region if the war between Iraq and Iran expands, or for any other reason." This problem can be ruled out unless, of course, there is an "agreement between the two countries on certain roles in the region."

The paper also talks about the U.S. strategy in the region, pointing out that the RDF were formed before the eruption of the Gulf war and before the Soviet arrival in Afghanistan. The paper does not rule out the existence of an agreement between the two countries on escalating the crises in the region so as to reach a point that threatens navigation "where the two countries will consequently interfere to certain limits."

The paper believes that anything affecting navigation in the Gulf will have repercussions on the European and Japanese economies. The paper says this is what the United States is after since any repercussions on the economy of Europe and Japan will benefit the economies of the United States and the Soviet Union, "since they will be in a better position through replacing the huge amounts of Japanese and European products flooding the markets."

Concluding, the paper calls on the countries of the area to realize the dimensions of the superpowers' game and to avoid creating pretexts for their interference.

Al-Wadah notes that the U.S. threats can be seen as on attempt to find an excuse for direct military interference in the Gulf. The paper adds that the U.S. interference will not be on the side of the two warring countries, but "will be against them and against the area countries. This interference will be for the sake of tightening the U.S. domination of the area's resources."

The paper calls on the United States to take practical steps to end this war instead of threatening the region with its fleets "if it is really concerned to preserve freedom of navigation in the vital Strait of Hormuz."

The paper stresses that rescuing the area has become the responsibility of the leaders of the two countries because after 3 years of war "it has become clear that neither side can win and that the insistence to continue the war or expand it may destroy the most outstanding characteristics of good life in this region, that is independence and freedom."

Concluding, the paper stresses that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz will not lead to achieving a victory "but to generalization and aggravation of the defeat."

Mubarak's Statement in Khartoum Welcomed
GF191100 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 1983

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *Al-Ittihad has welcomed the statement made yesterday in the* Sudanese capital by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak following his meeting with the Sudanese president. In his statement, Mubarak stressed that all the cards for the solution of the Middle East issue are in the hands of the Arabs and not in the hands of the United States. The paper says that through this statement Mubarak has undertaken to correct the policy of his predecessor, who had stated that "99 percent of the cards of our arab issue are in the hands of the United States."

The paper adds: "This could be the beginning of the efforts to unify the will of the Arab nation. We hope that the day in which all Arab windows will be opened to Cairo will not be far off — to the Cairo which said whatever is taken by force will be restored by force; to the cairo which saw the Palestinian resistance as most noble phenomenon in the post-1976 period; and to the Cairo that liberates our homeland inch by inch if a martyr falls on every inch. We are sure that this day is not far off."

Mubarak Interviewed on Local, World Issues

NC191115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 19 Oct 83

["Text" of interview by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to unidentified *As-Siyasah* correspondent — date not given]

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has emphasized that Egypt stipulates no conditions for its return to the Arab ranks. He said: We do not want to embarrass anybody. What is important is that the Arabs decide when they want Egypt back. President Mubarak also stressed the importance of Arab solidarity. He referred to the current state of division in the Arab world saying: Let us get together because we lose by staying apart.

In an interview which he granted to the Kuwaiti paper *As-Siyasah* and which the Egyptian papers publish in their editions tomorrow morning, President Mubarak denies the existence of an Egyptian-Syrian agreement against the Palestinian movement. He describes Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO executive committee chairman, as a flexible man who appreciates the world conditions around him.

Concerning the situation in the Gulf area, President Mubarak says that Egypt will intervene to defend the Gulf states if Iran carries out its threats. He expressed his belief, however, that Iran will back down. In his interview Mubarak stresses Egypt's adherence to the policy of nonalignment saying that there will be no [words indistinct] U.S. military personnel presence. Discussing his recent tour to the United States, President Mubarak explains that he talked frankly to the Americans and warned them that certain forces are exploiting the heightening of tension in the area, and that the United States will lose its friends if it fails in Lebanon and if it fails in finding solutions to the tense situation in the Gulf.

Regarding Egyptian-Soviet relations, President Mubarak criticizes the Soviet Union's interference in our domestic affairs. He explains that relations will not improve if this interference does not stop.

The President announces that Anba Shinudah [the Coptic patriarch] will resume his role. He says that he has reached an understanding with Shinudah on the appropriate date for the resumption of his role because there is no fanaticism in Egypt.

On the appointment of a vice president, President Mubarak says: When I find the right man, I will immediately appoint him because Egypt needs stability after the successive changes it has witnessed in the past 30 years. Concerning the internal situation, President Mubarak stresses that it is better now than it was 2 years ago and that our economic position is improving every year. President Mubarak says that the coming period will witness an improvement in the road network, the establishment of street cleaning companies, raising the standard of tourist services, and the construction of houses.

President Mubarak emphasizes there will be no leniency on issues pertaining to security and the protection of the state's funds. He explains that the state's prestige is not established on the basis of tyranny or a police state.

The following is the text of President Husni Mubarak's interview:

Question: Following your return from the United States, is there anything you did not do?

Answer: What has been declared explains a great deal of what was discussed during my visits to the United States and France. I emphasized that these international powers must not let down their friends in an atmosphere where other hostile forces exploit world disturbances and increase the high degree of hotbeds of tension in order to place these areas under their influence. We can imagine what would happen if Iran carries out its threats and closes the Hormuz Strait. This would mean stopping important strategic interests and halting oil supplies to Japan and the industrial countries in Europe; this would threaten the interests of the foreign importers as well as those of the oil-exporting countries of the area. I was frank with them. Partitioning Lebanon has dangers and partitioning Chad has other dangers. We told them: Let Israel withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally and let us draw up a timetable for this withdrawal. After that, we will return our ambassador to Israel. In the meantime, Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon would be an Arab affair that the Arabs can manage. We asserted that Egypt believes that Syria must withdraw from Lebanon and that all foreign forces must leave this country to its people so that its sovereignty will not be violated and justifications for partitioning it will not be created.

Question: Your Excellency, do you believe that the big powers have plans regarding what is happening in Lebanon and the Gulf area, or is what is happening a mere coincidence?

Answer: I affirm that what is happening is serious and it may lead to a new balance of forces. While I stress that what is happening is serious and may lead to a new balance of forces, I maintain that there are other international parties exploiting and benefiting from this tension. There are other forces that are hesitating until their friends find themselves frustrated. I was frank during my meetings with U.S. officials about the role of U.S. power in the world. To say there are plans or a scenario being implemented is not precise. There are, however, areas of tension that certain international parties exacerbate and benefit from, while the other party is a partial spectator. I believe that the United States will lose its friends if it fails to resolve the Lebanese issue, or if the conflict in the Gulf escalates as a result of Iran's attempt to implement its threats, while the international grouping, particularly the big powers, fail to do anything to stop the wars in these tense areas. There are, indeed, parties which quickly and flexibly exploit the increasing high degree of tension.

Question: Mr President, do you believe that Iran will block the Hormuz Strait?

Answer: In an atmosphere of war, much can be said, but these are mere threats aimed at raising morale. In my estimation, Iran will not block the Strait of Hormuz, because this requires a military force that is not available to Iran, particularly since it has open military fronts with Iraq. What is important is not to block the strait, but to defend the blockade at a time when international interests would be threatened. In my opinion, the big powers will not allow oil shipments to be endangered; they

are serious that this will not take place. It is political shortsightedness on the part of the Iranian political leadership to take such a step because this would endanger the interests of Iranian national sovereignty in an atmosphere of conflict between the big powers.

Question: Mr President, Iraq has obtained French Super Etendard planes. Do these planes mean something toward changing the balance of Iraqi power?

Answer: These planes provide a range for deploying the missiles attached to them. These missiles are used by the Iraqi Army. However, any fighting power must develop its combat capability. Iraq has taken this step, but in my view Iraq will only use them in extreme necessity when it feels forced to use them. My information is that Iraqi defense power is good even without these planes. However, there are some who believe that they may draw Iran to the negotiating table which Iraq called for several times with every flexibility but which Iran refused. Maybe this will make Iran feel that Iraq possesses effective military services and is capable of deploying them if it finds itself forced to.

It is important that all parties view the subject from the angle of the need for working to stop the war. The question then is: If Iraq obtains these planes or any other military equipment, will it lead to stopping the war or to prolonging it? In other words, what is Iraq's goal from obtaining these planes when it is obvious that Iraq is seriously seeking to stop the war as soon as possible? This is a legitimate goal which the international community supports. Therefore, Iraq's possession of these planes is a legitimate action to end the war as soon as possible.

Question: Your Excellency Mr President, Iran is threatening to strike the harbors of the Gulf states. Do you believe that Iran is serious about carrying out its threats?

Answer: This will not happen. If it did occur, then we would find ourselves faced with new international calculations. The reason is that such an action is serious and it will definitely entail international and regional repercussions. This is because the Gulf is a vital artery for many peoples of the world, and it is impossible to tamper with their interests.

There are many states that are particularly concerned with this state of affairs. First, there are the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. These states have strategic, military, economic, and political interests. There is also the rest of the Middle East states, headed by Egypt, and these states are directly interested in achieving stability and security in the Gulf area, and in not allowing conditions to emerge that provide scope for foreign interventions. There are the industrialized states of the Far East, Europe, and America, and even the Third World states that depend on Gulf oil in their daily life and for their development. It is natural that Iran should not be allowed to harm these combined interests. Before the political leadership thinks of any such step, it has to recalculate. The reason is that any miscalculation guarantees inflicting the gravest harm on Iranian interests themselves.

Perhaps I will take this opportunity to caution — and I do not say threaten — the Iranian leadership to stop thinking about these dangerous adventures, to accept Iraq's offer to end the war, and to immediately enter into peace negotiations before it is too late.

Question: Mr President, do you not believe that the forces of the [Gulf] Cooperation Council — including the Saudi force — are capable of protecting their states in their capacity as integral forces, including the Saudi Air Force?

Answer: It is imperative to say that they are of military importance. However, should Iran carry out its threats to strike at the Gulf states' harbors or to close the Hormuz Strait, then, to us, the situation will have other calculations. Naturally, these calculations will be made in consultation with the political leaderships in the area. At this point, it is imperative that numerous facts be taken into account, including the fact that the Egyptian Army is an Arab army.

Question: Mr President, some believe that there is an Egyptian-Syrian role to abort the Palestinian movement in order to strengthen the internal Palestinian movement preparatory to a comprehensive solution. What is your evaluation of this view?

Answer: There is no truth to this. On the contrary, while in the United States I insisted that the United States negotiate with the PLO if a solution is to be achieved. In my view, Yasir 'Arafat is a flexible person and he appreciates the world circumstances around him. Those who are reiterating such words are those who want the state of division among the Palestinians to continue. They themselves are exploiting the increased high degree of tension in world areas so that these may be brought under their sphere of influence.

Question: Mr President, some believe that the Palestinian leadership has missed many opportunities.

Answer: Yes, it has missed many opportunities. This is a fact. When Egypt signed the Camp David accord some sought to use this as a pretext for disagreeing with Egypt to overthrow the role of this Arab power in the course of Arab policy — they succeeded.

The Camp David accord amounts to two papers according to one of which the Israelis withdrew from Sinai. The other paper, which is more important, deals with the question of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. It is the first opportunity for a Palestinian action providing a real change in the situation in the occupied territory beginning with the liquidation of the Israeli occupation. However, everyone turned his back although Egypt sought an official Israeli-international commitment in which the Palestinians would find themselves — after a specific period — in a state capable of demanding more of their rights.

This paper was used to exclude Egypt from its Arab role. We tried very much to make everybody understand that we all would regret it tomorrow if we missed this opportunity. No one heeded our warnings.

Then came His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's initiative, which only needed the support of the great powers to defend it.

Then came U.S. President Reagan's initiative, which is naturally backed by a world superpower. All these opportunities were missed. Israel was the only beneficiary. It benefited from this in Lebanon.

Israel has naturally benefited from the events in Lebanon. The Palestinian military force was weakened. Palestinian political action is now passing through a state of fragmentation. Lebanon is living through an enduring state of war. The question is: Who is benefiting from this? We Arabs are like this. We miss chances and then regret having lost them. We do not learn the lesson. What we rejected before we ask the world to mediate in order to achieve it today.

Question: Mr President, it is said that the United States disposed of the Vietnam obsession with the arrival of the *New Jersey* in Lebanese waters and after Congress approved to extend the Marines' stay in Lebanon for 18 months. Has the United States begun to realize its interests and the interests of its friends?

Answer: I have told you there are countries which are flexible in their moves toward the tense areas. These countries, naturally, exploit the increasing tension. The United States knows this; many of its friends have often put it in the picture. It has even reached the point that many friends are angry with the United States over certain international stands. In my estimation, the United States will lose the friendship of many if it leaves these tense areas to one party and fails to work seriously to avert the emergence of a state of international imbalance.

Question: Mr President, are you going to visit Baghdad?

Answer: The Egyptian foreign minister will visit Baghdad. As for me, there are no arrangements for such a visit. Our relations with Iraq are good. Contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn are continuing. When time is suitable for Baghdad, I will visit it. On our part, we do not want to embarrass anyone.

Question: What about your relations with Morocco? Is there anything new?

Answer: I met with His Majesty King Hassan in the United States. During this meeting, the dialogue, naturally, focused on the tense areas of the world, particularly our Arab world. Regarding Egyptian-Arab relations, I told his majesty the king that we do not want to embarrass anyone. This is the same thing that I always repeat. If there is anyone who believes that his circumstances permit him to return to relations with us, he is welcome. But if there is anyone who has calculations other than those of reason and logic, we will not put pressure on anyone.

Question: Who is losing, Egypt or the Arab world, as a result of the fact that relations between your country and the Arab countries have not resumed?

Answer: Who benefits from this state of Arab fragmentation? How can we talk about Palestinian rights when we see ourselves busy in other issues that would not have arisen had there been any kind of Arab solidarity linking the interests of all the Arab peoples in a unified foreign policy. We are now prey to the forces whose interests are promoted when tension among Arab countries is heightened. Israel, for instance, invaded Lebanon, destroyed the Palestinian military force, devastated Lebanon, and concluded with Lebanon the agreement it wanted. What is the reason for this? The Arab world is losing as a result of Egypt's absence as a big Arab country. This is the case although in international forums, we are playing our role, which many people realize is an effective role, although the Arabs are not in direct consultations with us. All of us are losing because we are apart from one another. The Camp David agreements have been used as a pretext. It has been blown out of proportion to exaggerate it in order to dismember the Arab world. Every regime is dreaming about Arab leadership. The Camp David accords, as I have said, are two papers: One paper is concerned with the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the other paper pertains to autonomy, for which we were stabbed in the back, although its viability has now been proven.

Question: Mr President, what are the conditions for Egypt's return to the Arab world and would you agree to attend the forthcoming summit conference in Riyadh if you were invited?

Answer: I have no conditions. What is important is that they should decide when they want Egypt, but we do not want someone to ask the impossible. We do not want Egypt to be insulted during a meeting such as this. Our Arab world has had enough fragmentation, waste of energy, and driving power. We do not want to embarrass anyone. Whenever they want Egypt, it is there. However, I honestly say— enough fragmentation. Let us come together. How? This has to be decided upon by those who left us.

Question: Mr President, some understood by your statements in the United States that you were passing through a political crisis with the United States or that you view the Camp David accord as detrimental to Egypt.

Answer: There is no crisis with the United States. However, as a big power it should hear from us what we believe will consolidate world peace. Naturally, we do not want any side in the international conflict to dominate the other. However, we do not want any of the international sides to obtain privileges at the expense of the national sovereignty of a country pursuing a nonaligned policy. Even regarding the question of U.S. military facilities, if international circumstances provide for the presence of military equipment by us, this would be excluding any personnel. It means that there will be no U.S. military personnel present in Egypt. The joint maneuvers were aimed at raising the military capability and benefiting from their military advancement. It means nothing else nor a breach of the nonalignment policy. Even Britain had joint maneuvers with us. Does this mean a departure from nonalignment? The United States is a big power; when we raise issues with it regarding the areas of tension and ways of handling the tension, it naturally does not mean that our relations are passing through a crisis. Concerning Camp David, this accord had been signed and the phases of its implementation are over. Our ambassador will not return to his post before Israel withdraws from Lebanon because Israel has invaded an Arab state and this situation must be rectified by its unconditional withdrawal within a specific timetable.

Question: Mr President: It is said that the volume of economic relations with the Soviet Union has increased to a degree

that some people are wondering about the justification for the delay in the resumption of Egyptian-Soviet diplomatic relations.

Answer: Relations with the Soviet were affected... and the ambassadors were withdrawn because they interfered in our domestic affairs. They will not return until they halt this interference. At this time, it has not been proven that they have stopped interfering. On the contrary, we have indications that they are still interfering in our domestic affairs. It is enough to cite as the latest manifestation of this interference their official comment on the recently held legislative elections. It is as if they want to specify for us the type of personalities of democracy and constitutional institutions which we must create. They are still interfering in our local [mahalliyah] affairs. When they stop doing this, the ambassadors will return, but not before this.

Question: Mr President, in the atmosphere of the events in Lebanon, what will the next Palestinian action look like?

Answer: I have said that the Palestinians have missed many opportunities. Reagan's initiative, for example, is backed by a great power, and they were supposed to accept it as an initiative which could be developed by discussion to be acceptable to all the parties. They may succeed in bringing it closer to the Fes summit initiative. Any political meeting of this kind needs the proper groundwork. President Reagan's initiative was groundwork backed by a great power. Israel is very pleased now that we aborted this initiative. Moreover, Israel is present in Lebanon. The Palestinian resistance is crushed in the climate of this Arab conflict and is being pulled from several sides. Here we say that we must learn the lessons of opportunities which we missed instead of rejecting everything today and regretting tomorrow the things that we are supposed to having accepted yesterday. The Arab leadership which is characterized by wisdom and farsightedness should dictate its roles otherwise the Arab world situation remains unchanged and the Palestinian force is a small image of this disturbed world.

Question: Mr President, let us leave the Arab and outside world and return to Egypt. Mr President, some wonder that while you are calling for consumption of local commodities and production, your ministers are enjoying smoking foreign-made cigarettes and driving imported vehicles. What is your view?

Answer: Naturally, I call for consuming national products and I even dream of a strong exporting policy, particularly some of the commodities that are surplus to our needs. I criticize the people here. [Egyptian] tobacco manufacturing is at the same standard as some fine imports and the response has been good. I am not against imports but imports are made for commodities that are not adequately produced locally. Car production here is not adequate. The imported cars the ministers are riding are old cars, some of which are owned by them. When local production becomes sufficient they will not use imported cars. These vehicles are not new, so we should not reproach them. I have suspended the import of apples as we have enough here. This year we exported certain types of rice. The situation now is better than it was 2 years ago but the people want miracles and they want the impossible quickly. Those who want the impossible and have ideas how to achieve this should put forward their ideas as we may benefit from them in the development plans.

Appropriations for drainage and water projects in the 5-year plan amount to over 9 billion pounds. In its first year 98 percent of the 5-year plan was implemented. I need not speak about prosperity. The economic picture is evident, but it is definitely better than before. Egypt is now recuperating. The road network now is different from that of 2 or 3 years before. The telephone services are better. Any rise in the people's income is met by a rise in consumption. When the government decided to pay half a month's salary to its employees, it was met by a huge increase in consumption. Last Ramadan meat consumption amounted to that stored for 4 months. The people consume more when their income increases. The important thing is that we should study this phenomena and be prepared for it. Economic crises are not confined to Egypt. There is a crisis in Britain, in Italy; many states suffer from crises.

Question: It is said that you have dealt with those who became rich illegally, but that you have done nothing for the poor class?

Answer: Everyone who wants to work is allowed to do so. Opportunities are available for all and we will not [word indistinct] anyone so long as he works within the limits of the law; but for one to become rich at the expense of the people's food is prohibited. Let him become rich but he must pay his commitments to the state so that the state will be able to meet its commitments. Attention is being given to housing for the first time in Egypt. There is also a 5-year plan which is being implemented. I have said to those who drew up the 5-year plan that I will not interfere in the amendment of any of its clauses. What is important is for the people to know what will take place in 5 years so they can plan ahead based on what has been set aside and decided upon. Then, let us be logical: Egypt cannot isolate itself from the world economy. Before the July revolution the population of Egypt was 16 million; now it is 47 million. The world prices are not the same as those of 1952. The remedy for this is doubling production, qualitatively and quantitatively. That is why I myself am following the efforts for developing the local factories [word indistinct] those of the public sector. But in the private sector the development of production is important. Our conditions are improving now: The road network will be improved; local or joint companies will be formed to clean Cairo; improvement in the standard of tourist services will be enhanced because they are one of the important sources of revenues. I want to emphasize that we did not promise the people a prosperous state because economic progress requires time. What is important is that we are seeing improvements year after year.

Question: Has the role of the Court of Ethics ended?

Answer: Not yet, because it is included in the socialist constitution but its powers are limited to certain restrictions. Contacts with Pope [Shinudah] are continuing.

Question: During your period in power, Egypt has not witnessed what is termed sectarian tension; don't you think that the time is now opportune for Pope Shinudah to resume his role?

Answer: Pope Shinudah is in the monastery and we are in continuous contact with him. There is an understanding between us on when he will resume his role; he understands and accepts our point of view. Of course, he will resume his role when the

circumstances are favorable. He will return. Egypt has never been a fanatic country; there is an understanding between me and Pope Shinudah on this subject as he is the spiritual leader of the Copts.

Question: What has happened in connection with the lawyers association?

Answer: When I say that we are a democratic country I mean that. It is important that the sovereignty of the law should prevail. The presidency's role is neutral regarding the various groups. The government has its point of view but the law had its say and the association was reinstituted. So long as the law decided on this matter, this means that the principles of the law and the constitution dictated it. I respect the sovereignty of the law. This is all that has taken place.

Question: When will a vice president be appointed?

Answer: When a suitable person is found. I come from Egypt and my roots are Arab. When I leave office for any circumstances whatsoever, I do not want it to be void of a person capable of shouldering the responsibilities of the office. The inheritance of the presidential office in Egypt requires a loyal human capability. When I find a suitable vice president, I shall immediately appoint him. Delay in the appointment of a vice president has happened on many occasions in Egypt's political history.

Question: Mr President, it is clear that you are drawing up a long-term economic policy. Do you believe that the ordinary people here — I mean the simple people — will exercise patience in waiting for results?

Answer: The Egyptian economy needs continue concentration by the political leadership so that it can restore self-confidence and so that effective local cadres can be established, particularly at the private sector level. Many industries have been set up, unknown to the people. Therefore, I am visiting these industries not only to see them myself but also for the people to see. Dozens of factories have been established and other factories have been renovated, some which are joint enterprises with foreign industries. What draws attention is the fact that 65 percent of the financing for these industries is Egyptian. This means that the people have begun to have confidence in the importance of the Egyptian market as a consuming market requiring several industries. There are, naturally, long-term plans because they require great financing. Such projects, be they industries or public service projects, must be implemented in stages for the duration of the plan. As long as the people feel that certain projects are underway, they are hopeful. However these projects do not include their daily requirements. Therefore, the government subsidizes some consumer goods. However, we cannot satisfythe people by saying that within a certain time frame we will enjoy years of prosperity. It is clear that there are economic changes and service changes which the people are noticing. Are these changes adequate to meet the citizens' demands or not? This will not affect the fact that the political leadership has been urging the official machinery to provide its utmost. The private sector should also be active. There is ample room for this. The Egyptian market is a big consumer market giving good yields to any type of industry, particularly if they are foodstuff industries.

Question: Mr President, you are inviting the private sector to become active while there are those who hesitate for fear that in the event of success, they will be accused of illegal profiteering.

Answer: There is no return from the open door policy. When we put those who made their wealth in an illegal manner on trial, we were defending the rights of the people. No one will be tried if he actually carries out his work in accordance with the law. The law itself will do injustice to no one. In other advanced countries many go to prison because they failed to pay their dues to the state such as taxes. The taxation laws in the advanced countries include severe penalties for tax evaders. All that we want from those making profits is for them to pay their dues to the state, nothing else. There are opportunities for all. The private sector's opportunities are many. The state alone cannot do the impossible. For example, we are now thinking of constructing highways with public financing. The companies or the state will build these roads and recover their cost from tolls as is the case in advanced countries. This will solve the problem of financing and will provide an opportunity for a speedy implementation of the projects.

Question: Mr President, was the late President as-Sadat's legacy a heavy one?

Answer: After the July Revolution, Egypt passed through many stages beginning with the regime of President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. There were changes in the political and social systems. The transformation period has had its effect on the whole area. Then came a period that placed Egypt in another phase, including that of consolidating the role of the democratic institutions. For 36 years, Egypt has been living through a state of changes, including wars in the homeland and a population explosion. Therefore, Egypt needs years of stability and security so that it can transcend the negative or positive aspects of these years.

Question: Mr President, where do you plan to be flexible or firm?

Answer: Naturally, I am not disturbed by the uproar of free political action. I am not concerned over differences in views as long as they are within limits. There is no flexibility on the security question, including safeguarding the state's property.

Question: Mr President, there are people who believe that the authority is weak and that the atmosphere of democracy deprived the authority of its prestige.

Answer: Those who say this, let them dare to be in opposition to the authority's political security position. The authority's prestige is not created by imprisoning people or for the ruler to be annoyed. Two years have passed since I assumed power. I have no objection to differing viewpoints. What is important is that differences in views not lead to a dispute and that we not becomeinstruments for others against the national democratic sovereignty which Egypt is has not experienced before. When the law affirmed the safety of the Bar Association, the lawyers returned. The authority does not want its prestige to be evident through oppression or through the establishment of a police state. This is out of the question. There are other arrangements for safeguarding the national security that accept no argument or

flexibility. If some people believe that the neutrality of the leadership among the various social factions means weakness or loss of the authority's prestige, let them try to depart from legitimacy.

Question: Mr President. There are those who interpret the repeated uncovering of plots inside Egypt as a form of vociferous protest against the authorities.

Answer: All the plots we uncovered and announced were conspiracies which the security department had followed and which we had known about beforehand. They were not of such great magnitude or importance, but they had to be made public. It was possible to ignore them in media, but making them public confirms the fact that they are not so important. The major powers, and indeed the majority of states, experience such crimes and violations of national security and they can only be interpreted as violations of and departures from the rules of the security law. Here, our internal security is controlled in a secure manner designed to create stability. As for revealing groups that intend to carry out terrorist actions, this does not mean that the authorities are incapable of confronting the offenders. Such offenses are not important because they are punishable and do not have an effect. Such offenses naturally happen in a state whose population is 47 million.

Question: Mr President, two years have elapsed since you assumed office. Do you feel that Egypt is still in need of Husni Mubarak?

Answer: As I have said, Egypt experienced 36 years of political vicissitudes and wars. It is in need of a tranquil atmosphere that will provide opportunities for contemplating economic development. Egypt's capabilities need proper guidance by the political leadership. I am not saying that I am essential for leading Egypt, but as long as I am here, the trust makes it incumbent upon me to do everything I can. The burdens of the presidency in Egypt are not a picnic or a pleasant promenade.

Question: Mr President, does the pension law apply to the journalists who have reached the pensionable age?

Answer: Naturally. The law applies to them so that they will give way to new blood; but if they wish to write in the press, this is their business. However those who reach the age of 60 will be retired.

Ceausescu, Delegation Arrive on 4-day Visit

NC191444 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA) — President and Mrs Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Romanian President and Mrs Nicolae Ceausescu at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah this afternoon. The Romanian president was given an official welcome at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah where the band played the Romanian and the Egyptian national anthems and the two presidents reviewed an honor guard.

Afterward the Romanian president, accompanied by President Mubarak, shook hands with welcoming party which included senior statesmen headed by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib; Consultative Council Chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister; and Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister for public services and minister of state for education and scientific research.

The Romanian president and the accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo at 1530 today on a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is accompanied during his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt by a delegation including Georghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister and head of the Romanian group to the technical and economic cooperation committee; Constantin Mitea, the Romanian president's adviser; Adrian Stoica, deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation; Marcel Dinu , Foreign Ministry director; and Romanian ambassador to Cairo, Ion Iosefide. An honor escort headed by Industry Minister Muhammad al-Gharuri will be accompanying the Romanian president during the visit.

'Ali on Ceausescu Visit

NC191930 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, Oct 19 (MENA) — Deputy premier and foreign minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the current visit of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu came within the context of continuous consultations between the two countries over the Mideast conflict and international issues.

On the Romanian role vis-a-vis the Mideast crisis and whether President Ceausescu was carrying new proposals, 'Ali said this will become evident through the talks today and tomorrow.

The foreign minister said Egypt has economic ties with Romania and pointed out that the volume of trade exchange amounted to approximately 451 million dollars.

The aspired for objective is for this volume to reach 1000 million dollars, he added.

Hasan 'Ali said there is also technical cooperation between the two countries. There is a deal for 200 tanks which shows that there is a bilateral military cooperation, he added.

Report on 19 October Lebanese Talks

NC191729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA) — Egyptian-Lebanese talks and meetings today took place at the Foreign Ministry in the context of the constant contacts between the two countries over the present situation in Lebanon; and in the context of the efforts that are being exerted to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces, achieve national reconciliation, and restore Lebanese sovereignty throughout Lebanon.

In this framework Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister met with Mr Sami Marun, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's personal envoy to Cairo. The head of the Lebanese interests section in Cairo, 'Abd ar-Rahman Salih attended the meeting. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali also met with the Lebanese guest.

Following the two meetings, Sami Marun said that they discussed topics pertaining to Middle East developments, the Lebanese crisis, the efforts exerted to solve it and to bring about a foreign forces withdrawal, and efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

Marun said that he conveyed the appreciation of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and of the people and Government of Lebanon to President Husni Mubarak and the people and Government of Egypt for their support to the Lebanese people in solving the Lebanese crisis.

The Lebanese envoy added that a review was also made of the efforts exerted by Egypt on behalf of Lebanon during President Mubarak's latest visits to France and the United States, and during contacts made by the Foreign Ministry to solve the Lebanese problem.

Marun pointed out that the discussion also dwelt on the bolstering of bilateral relations in different domains and the implementation of the trade protocol signed by both countries in 1965 to boost commercial exchanges. Within this context, the envoy said, he will meet tonight with the minister of economy, and tomorrow morning with the minister of tourism.

Communique Reports 'Fierce' Air Raids Against Iran

JN191818 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,252 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 19 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As long as the suspect Khomeyniite clique indulges in its devious methods and continues its aggression against our brave country, it will only reap further defeats and destruction. It will find the great sons of Iraq more powerful and capable of dealing painful blows to the covetous aggressors. The results of the activities at the front for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our daring fighter planes today fiercely raided enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units in the northern sector of thr front, scoring direct, effective hits. Other formations of our capable fighter planes attacked enemy concentrations and important military targets deep inside enemy territory opposite the northern sector, scoring accurate hits. During its combat missions today, our planes inflicted heavy losses on enemy positions, equipment, and troop concentrations. Columns of smoke were seen and sounds of explosions heard in enemy targets. All our planes returned safely and triumphantly to base, thanks be to God.

2. Using various weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions opposite their positions in the northern sector. They used artillery against other targets deep inside enemy territory, inflicting a number of casualties. The enemy was seen attempting to evacuate its losses from the area. In another area of the same sector, our units destroyed an enemy tank and vehicle-borne radar equipment. They also destroyed three vehicles, one of which was carrying personnel, and a number of enemy troop assembly points, killing those inside. In the same sector new groups of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forces. They were escaping Khomeyni's tyranny and evil. They were all safely evacuated to the rear.

3. Three were killed and one hardware stockpile destroyed in the centrai sector.

4. One vehicle and three infantry positions were destroyed in the area east of Basra.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite regime today shelled Mandali and its suburbs with artillery, causing damage in a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command. 19 October 1983

Spokesman Denies Iranian Forces' Incursion

JN191850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that Iranian units penetrated 30 km into Iraqi territory in the northern sector of the front last night. The spokesman told INA tonight that any attempt to cross the Iraqi border will be nipped in the bud. The spokesman denied Iranian claims about destroying an Iraqi helicopter and damaging another yesterday, adding that yesterday's Iraqi communique did not report any activities by Iraqi helicopters in the northern sector.

'New Iranian Offensive' Hits Panjwin 20 Oct

JN200729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — The I Army Corps units have confronted a new Iranian offensive against the border township of Panjwin in the northern sector.

Iraqi military communique No 1,253 issued here this morning said that at midnight last night the Iranian forces attacked Iraq's borders in the Panjwin area. The communique stressed that the units of the I Army Corps succeeded in containing and checking the offensive and prevented it from achieving its objectives. The communique pointed out that the Iraqi units began by destroying the attacking forces everywhere they sought to cross the border. The communique stated that battles continue to rage and that the Iraqi forces are confirming their ability to defend Iraqi territory.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,253 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands. Cover them with shame. Help you to victory over them. Heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Due to the insistence of the enemies of God and mankind that those insane and suspect rulers in Tehran pursue their crimes, confirm their designs, and ascertain their great ignorance and backwardness, the enemy, at midnight on 19-20 October, carried out a treacherous offensive in the northern sector, with the border township of Panjwin as the target. The valiant units of the I Army Corps were lying in wait for the enemy, confronted the enemy forces' treacherous offensive, succeeded in containing and checking it, and prevented the enemy from achieving its objectives.

Our forces started to destroy the enemy force everywhere it sought to encroach on our pure territory and lofty mountains. The battle is still raging and the valiant Iraqis are confirming their great ability to protect the banner and the land's dignity. Let the infamous realize that the stars in the sky are closer to their reach than their attempt to achieve their evil objectives and expansionist designs; that the lion's den can be defended by its lions; and that the Panjwin valleys and mountains will be their graveyard and the inferno whose fire will burn their corrupt heads. Panjwin will remain, with God's help, lofty through the intrepidness and determination of the valiant Iraqis. God is great, dignity to our people, and death to our people's enemies.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 October 1983

Battles 'Still Raging'

JN200821 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — The I Army Corps forces, since midnight last night, are continuing to destroy the new Iranian offensive against the Panjwin area northeast of Iraq.

The Iraqi forces succeeded in containing and checking the Iranian offensive and prevented it from achieving its objectives. Fierce blows have been dealt to the Iranian forces which tried to cross the international borders from any position.

In his dispatch this morning, an INA correspondent said that the battles are still raging with all types of weapons at the foot of mountains and in the valleys to exterminate what remains of the attacking Iranian force.

The INA correspondent added that the Iraqi forces are determined to inflict heavy losses on the Iranian forces and turn the area into a graveyard for the enemy forces. He added that the Iraqi forces will not allow anyone to escape death except those who surrender.

President Receives Message From Fidel Castro

JN191310 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received an oral message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. Dr Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, delivered the message when the president received him here today.

It was learned that the message deals with the scope of cooperation between the two friendly countries and with the exchange of opinions on a number of topics of joint interest.

In his message, the Cuban president expressed a profound desire to promote the existing strong relations between Iraq and Cuba. He also expressed his wishes for further progress and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

President Saddam Husayn asked the Cuban envoy to convey his greetings to President Castro and his best wishes for further progress to the Cuban People. He also praised the existing relations of bilateral cooperation and expressed the deep desire to promote them.

Minister Receives Polish Transportation Official

JN191550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA) — 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim, Iraqi minister of transportation and communications, met here today with Andrzej Markowski, under secretary at the Polish Ministry of Transportation, currently visiting Iraq. They discussed the two countries' relations in the fields of transportation and communications and the means of promoting them. They also discussed the contribution of a number of Polish comapnies to implementing Iraqi development projects.

Ramadan Addresses Industrial Development Session

JN191802 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning opened the fourth session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development. He delivered a speech in which he asserted that the glorious Arab homeland is passing through critical circumstances characterized by contradictions and the growing onslaught of the superpowers, which poses a danger to the Arab nation's future. He added that this danger is explained by the events that are taking place in the Lebanese arena and on the eastern Iraqi border.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also said that any talk about economic integration in the various fields and economic branches cannot have practical meaning and real dimensions and will remain, regardless of any good intentions, only talk that cannot be translated into realities unless such integration is based on a firm ground of Arab solidarity. He added: Three years have passed since the beginning of our sacred war with the expansionist Iranian enemy. He continued: Throughout these years, Iraq has managed to foil the Iranian enemy's plans to hamper the progress of development in our country. He also explained that the policy of integration is an alternative to the policy of divisions, competition, and isolated development, and that the first step to promote the policy of integration should be based on supporting the specialized Arab organizations. The first deputy prime minister also said that the Arab nation is exposed to many dangers that aim at disrupting Iraq on a sectarian basis and the Gulf states as well as the whole Arab homeland. Fraternal Lebanon has been suffering for years from such a disruption.

Participants in the fourth session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development will discuss a number of topics on the organization's agenda. Delegations from all the Arab states, except Syria, are participating in this session. A number of ministers and Arab ambassadors as well as the heads of the Arab and international organizations also attended the opening celebrations.

Special Jordanian Unit 'Propaganda' Noted
JN200839 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Season of Casting Doubts," *Sawt ash-Sha'b* says: Israeli sources have said that U.S. President Reagan is currently busy with a new Middle East peace plan. This plan is based on establishing cooperation between Israel and the so-called moderate Arab countries. Israeli propaganda is saying that the U.S. National Security Council has discussed this plan and requested that Jordan be convinced to participate in the peace plan the United States will present.

Sawt ash-Sha'b continues: If we compare these reports on a U.S. peace plan, whose primary target is Jordan, with other allegations that Israel is still propagating concerning a special Jordanian unit that will be trained and armed to carry out military missions in the Arab Gulf in the interest of U.S. policy, we find that Israeli propaganda is busy these days launching a large-scale campaign to cast doubts on Jordan and its pan-Arab stands. We can understand the dimensions of this campaign directed against Jordan through its timing. This campaign is taking place before the Arab summit conference is convened in an attempt to weaken the Jordanian stand, deepen doubts in the Arab arena, and find new causes for Arab differences and contradictions.

Sawt ash-Sha'b says: Any U.S. peace plan that ignores the Arab commitment to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestine cause will only be an imaginary plan aimed at driving a new wedge in the Arab ranks and creating additional causes for conflict and differences in the Arab arena.

Jordan, which places itself at the disposal of its [Arab] nation's service and issues, does not want to put its Arab commitment to its fraternal Arab countries within the framework of U.S. policies and attempts of hegemony over the Arab Gulf. The Arabs reject foreign interference — whether it is by the United States, Iran, or any other source. The coming Arab summit conference must seek a collective Arab defense strategy to confront attempts of foreign interference and penetration in the Arab Gulf and other Arab territories.

Sawt ash-Sha'b concludes: Jordan, which is considered an extension of its nation's stands and ambitions and which stresses its stand in support of its nation and in defense of its existence and interests, realizes the purpose of casting doubts aimed at using the Arab differences, adding them to new, everyday factors in order to prevent Arab rapprochement and any change in the current Arab situation. Everybody realizes that Jordan's pan-Arab march proves it is above all attempts aimed at casting doubts. What remains is that Israel must realize its game has been exposed.

AR-RA'Y Views U.S. Middle East Policy
JN191036 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] On the reassessment of U.S. policy in the Middle East, the newspaper *Ar-Ra'y* says: We do not know what the U.S. Administration has decided following the U.S. National Security Council meeting held under President Reagan. Although the President is expected to announce many things, we are sure that many other things will remain secret. Until we receive detailed information about what will take place at the press conference, we would like to pause and consider Larry Speakes' statements, which should shed some light on the covert meetings that have taken place in the U.S. National Security Council.

Speakes announced that the most important priority for President Reagan is to achieve reconciliation among the warring Lebanese groups. If this statement means what it says, then it means that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is no longer the first priority in the U.S. policy. If we agree that the Zionist invasion of Lebanon is the main reason for the complication of the Lebanese crisis and for further complicating it — and this is a fact — then the United States, which usually ignores causes and deals with results, is dealing with the Lebanese crisis in light of the last chapter of the crisis instead of going back to the first chapters. Dealing in this manner will never lead to resolutions in the interest of the Lebanese people and their territorial integrity, and will never be in the interest of the region's peace and stability, which are threatened by the Zionist designs and practices.

Ar-Ra'y adds: Regarding the Middle East crisis, Larry Speakes pointed out the possibility of new efforts through President Reagan's plan. We do not know what encourages Washington to proceed with this plan since it has been rejected by the Zionist enemy from the very beginning, and has responded to the call for freezing settlements by active plans aimed at covering the entire Palestinian territory with settlements. If the Arabs have welcomed and are welcoming any U.S. effort to achieve peace in this inflamed region of the world, they have also realized that the unilateral U.S. efforts cannot achieve anything in the interest of peace and stability. The reason for this is the impotence of U.S. administrations to adopt a brave and sincere stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and to play the role of the trusted mediator for the Arabs. These two reasons necessitate a return to the international community and the UN resolutions, especially those regarding the Palestinian question.

Dialogue Committee Meeting Officially Postponed

NC191834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] It was officially announced a short while ago that the meeting of the National Dialogue Committee, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow in the Beirut airport area, has been postponed.

It should be recalled that after studying the outcome of the meetings held regarding the venue for the National Dialogue Committee meeting, and after ascertaining most parties then approved of Beirut International Airport, His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil sent out invitations yesterday to hold the first meeting tomorrow, at 1100.

However, after fixing the place of the meeting, opposition has arisen from some parties, attributed to security and other reasons.

In conformity with his excellency the president's determination to bring about the success of the dialogue and to avoid the absence of any party, it has been decided to postpone the meeting to a later date, while intensive contacts will continue to set the place and date for another meeting soon.

We point out in this regard that circles of the Presidential Palace were busy today making contacts to ensure that the meeting would be held. However, after ascertaining that some parties will not attend for security reasons, it has been decided to postpone this meeting.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil tonight received Rafiq al-Hariri, the assistant to the Saudi mediator, and reviewed with him the contacts which were held concerning the meeting of the National Dialogue Committee.

Karami Refuses To Attend

NC191406 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah received in his palace in Zgharta at 1000 today former Minister Marwan Hamadah accompanied by a delegation from the Progressive Socialist Party. They immediately held a meeting that was attended by Robert Franjiyah and was later joined by Deputy Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rafi'i. After the 75-minute meeting, Hamadah and the accompanying delegation left Zgharta for Tripoli to meet with [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Hamadah has postponed making any statement on the nature of his visit to the north today until he completes his contacts.

Hamadah's meeting with Rashid Karami in Tripoli lasted about 1 hour after which he returned to Zgharta and met again with Franjiyah at 1250 to brief him on the results of his meeting with Karami.

Following his meeting with Karami, Hamadah said his visit comes within the framework of the continuous coordination among the leaders of the National Salvation Front. He added: I conveyed to His Excellency President Franjiyah and to His Excellency Prime Minister Karami an urgent message from Walid Junblatt on the overall developments, particularly the national dialogue issue and the reports on the venues set or to be set for the meeting.

In answer to a question, Hamadah said: I feel that the National Salvation Front is one unified front more than ever before; its decision is the same and will be expressed by Rashid Karami in a statement that he will make later.

In answer to another question, Hamadah said the National Salvation Front did not reject any conference for dialogue, because it has for many months called for a national dialogue which would lead to an accord and the liberation of Lebanon. This was and still is the stand of the front. The National Salvation Front does not reject dialogue, on the contrary; but it will not get lost on the course of recriminations about suitable or unsuitable venues for dialogue.

Responding to a question on whether there are positive expectations regarding the future results of the National Dialogue Conference, Hamadah said: God willing, everything depends on the intentions of the government and the other party. The National Salvation Front is clear with regard to its program which calls for the liberation of Lebanon through unconditional Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a just and balanced government in Lebanon.

Asked whether there are fears of security incidents prior to the meeting of the National Dialogue Conference, Hamadah said: Those who circulate such reports want to torpedo the conference, belittle its importance, or slander its participants. We will all work to foil these attempts and prevent any security problems, as they call them. In the past 2 days, we noticed that some fronts were flared up, but we will try not to be caught in these security traps.

Asked if the [National] Dialogue Conference will convene tomorrow on time, Hamadah said: Rashid Karami has the answer.

At this time, Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Karami] I have received friends Marwan Hamadah and Riyad Ra'd who were sent by brother Walid Junblatt. They conveyed the position as they see it and also held consultations with His Excellency President Sulayman Franjiyah and with me on what we must decide in light of the meeting set for tomorrow at Beirut International Airport. All of you know that the agreement that provided for a cease-fire and for a dialogue was issued in Damascus. This affirms our permanent readiness to do all that must be done to reach the desired national accord. We all seek the interests of our homeland's sons. All the Lebanese want to emerge from this ordeal and crisis as quickly as possible.

I would like to recall our meeting with the mediators, especially Al-Hariri, with whom we met 2 days ago. During this meeting we exchanged views on the venue which fulfills the security conditions and where all the invitees to the conference can meet

and hold a dialogue. We voiced reservations about Beirut International Airport, because it was not and will not be the required place since it has none of the conditions we set. Invitations, however, were sent to the participants to meet at Beirut International Airport.

Therefore, in line with our permanent desire and readiness to hold a dialogue and achieve the accord that will establish a balanced government, liberation of the country, and safeguarding its national unity, sovereignty, and Arab role, we, from this premise, will not attend this meeting tomorrow for the security reasons that I have mentioned. We leave it to the government to consult with all the parties concerned in order to set another venue that will be suitable and has the required conditions in keeping with our efforts to facilitate the dialogue process.

[Unidentified reporter] In light of your reservations about Beirut International Airport, how can you interpret the government's choice of this venue for the conference?

[Karami] I do not want to accuse anyone, because this choice will delay the meeting and the dialogue, or torpedo this idea. I hope that the government will realize its responsibilities and that there is no alternative solution to dialogue and accord to save the Lebanese people from their suffering, destruction, and devastation.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, during your meeting with mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, was not the airport proposed as a venue, when you said that the venue was not an obstacle?

[Karami] I have said and repeat that formalities cannot be placed before the basic things. The airport was proposed and it was rejected for the well-known reasons. Thus, setting this venue in particular actually poses the following big questions:

If formalities cause such obstacles, delay, and gaining time, what will their stand be regarding the basic things and important issues, the discussions of which must lead to concessions that will achieve just and balanced solutions?

[Reporter] In light of the failure to convene this meeting, there is fear that security incidents may arise. How can this obstacle be averted?

[Karami] We want to draw the attention of all the parties concerned about saving Lebanon through dialogue and accord that violence is not a means for achieving these goals. On the contrary, we accuse the parties which fabricate the incidents of not wanting the dialogue or accord. As for us, I have said and repeat that we are fully ready to do this duty.

[Reporter] You have shown reservation about the airport as a venue for the meeting. Have you set another venue for the mediator?

[Karami] As a matter of fact, we do not want to embarrass anyone. We leave the setting of a venue to consultations and agreement between the parties concerned and the official authority.

Junblatt Will Not Attend

JN192045 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Lebanon — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt today announced that he will not attend the national dialogue conference called by the leader of the Lebanese regime tomorrow at Beirut Airport, saying that before addressing the invitation and announcing the venue of the conference, the regime should have first obtained the approval of all the sides on this venue.

Addressing a press conference in Al-Mukhtarah today in the presence of Major General Nadim al-Hakim, chief of staff of the Lebanese Army; and Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, shaykh of the Druze community in Lebanon, Junblatt said that Beirut airport is unsafe. He reiterated his previous proposal to hold the conference in Cyprus, at the Arab League headquarters, Geneva, or on a Greek ship carrying the Lebanese flag. Junblatt added:

This does not mean that we refuse to participate. On the contrary, we are calling for expediting the convocation of the conference and for all sides to agree on the venue of this conference. We also adhere to the cease-fire and call on the authority to respect it.

Junblatt continued: Lebanon is going through a tribulation. We hope that a political solution will be reached to the Lebanese crisis and the tribulation experienced by Lebanon. The fighting has been imposed on us, and we have no other choice.

The PSP leader affirmed at his press conference that the Nationalist Forces are for the unity of the military establishment. He said that the Army must be a shield for the homeland and the citizen. He objected to the Army's interference in internal differences in the interest of a certain party, faction, or family. Junblatt called on Amin al-Jumayyil and the military command to go back on its current destructive policy, which constitutes a threat to Lebanon as a political entity and as a unified military establishment.

Junblatt said: We welcomed Chief of Staff Major General Nadim al-Hakim and his fellow officers from the Lebanese Army out of our concern for the unity of this military establishment. Everyone must know that this establishment does not belong to any person, individual, or party. We affirm our rejection of using this Army in the interest of any quarter or citizen or for domestic tasks which have nothing to do with the homeland's honor and the protection of the citizen.

Shaykh Abu Shaqra spoke at the press conference. He said: The homeland is experiencing a tribulation which has affected all communities. We here, soldiers and civilians, will confront this tribulation and its perpetrators.

Major General Nadim al-Hakim also spoke. He said: The crucial phase through which Lebanon is passing calls on the citizens, especially those in places of responsibility, to save this homeland from the dangers threatening it and the biased practices by some of its factions. It is for this reason that I met with the soldiers — officers and men — in Hammana and met with Walid Junblatt and Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra.

Major General al-Hakim added: We discussed the current situation and the motives which led to the present stand. After our meeting, we felt that it was our national and pan-Arab duty to stay here to command and guide the soldiers in the interest of and for the well-being of the homeland and all factions without exception.

Major General al-Hakim said: Our presence in Al-Mukhtarah is not a secessionist, factional, or divisionist manifestation to harm the unity of the Army, but an expression or our resentment of the erroneous practices which occurred in the mountain, Beirut, and Kafr Matta, where the Army was used to strike at citizens prior to striking at other nationalist parties and forces.

Major General al-Hakim added: We are for the unity of the Army and keeping it away from internal conflicts. The Army must be united to protect the country's independence and unity and to serve as a shield for the homeland and the citizens.

RFL on Syria's Rejection of Dialogue Meeting
NC200057 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Will the Dialogue Committee meet tomorrow or not? The political and security atmosphere that is prevailing thus far indicates that it will be difficult for the committee to convene in a plenary meeting now that Syria has expressed its rejection of the meeting on a political and military basis: politically, through former Prime Minister Rashid Karami on behalf of the [National] Salvation Front as well as through the newspaper *Tishrin on behalf of the Syrian Government; militarily, through* intensifying the security situation in the mountain and the southern suburb of Beirut, especially on and around the airport road by repeated attacks on the Lebanese Army and the Marines.

The Lebanese Government was not taken aback by such stands because this is not the first time that the Syrians and those who benefit from them have fabricated (?flimsy) excuses to frustrate the Dialogue Committee meeting. However, the Lebanese Government wanted to make everyone responsible and do everything possible to ensure the convening of the Dialogue Committee so that it will not be said that it has been negligent or obstructive in this respect. The invitations have been sent out, the venue and date have been set, and security and administrative arrangements have been made. The Multinational Force has been assigned the task of providing protection at the venue and the U.S. force has been given the task of ensuring the safety of the helicopters which are to transport the committee members to the venue. The government expects those invited to the meeting to attend at 1100 tomorrow.

Informed sources have said that in the absence of a quorum, the Lebanese Government will issue a detailed statement explaining the contacts that preceded the setting of the venue and the date for the meeting, disclosing in detail what the government had told the mediators and the facilities it has offered for convening the committee meeting, and dotting the i's and crossing the t's. The government will thus reveal to the world who is responsible for obstructing the national dialogue.

The same sources added that the Lebanese Government is sure that the problem is not the venue and date of the meeting. Rather, the problem lies with Syria's ambitions and conditions which make attendance at the Dialogue Committee meeting by Syrian sympathizers a cause of embarrassment for themselves and Syria since the dialogue will be tantamount to the hour of truth that will reveal all the cards.

Italian Envoy Visits Besieged Town, Reports
AU200946 Rome ANSA in English 0858 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, October 20 — The mayor of Dayr al-Qamar in the Ash-Shuf mountain area of Lebanon, besieged by Druze forces, has appealed to the Italian ambassador as his "last hope" to aid the 20,000 refugees there threatened by hazardous food and health conditions.

Three thousand Phalangist militiamen barricaded themselves in the Christian village, together with 25,000 Christian refugees from the region, after fighting broke out between Druze and Phalangist forces. The Lebanese Government in September asked for the aid of Italian multi-national peacekeeping forces to evacuate civilians there, but no action has been taken so far in the face of the continuing conflict.

On Wednesday morning, Italian ambassador Lucioli Ottieri asked Druze leader Walid Junblatt for a safe-conduct pass to visit the besieged city.

"I found the conditions worse than I thought," Ottieri, the first foreign diplomat to view the city in person, told ANSA after his visit. "A large number of people are at their limit, without food or water. If a solution is not found before winter, I don't know what may happen. Someone must do something for these poor people".

The ambassador recounted that he saw dozens of people sleeping on church floors and in underground rooms without light. In a convent, he said, 350 handicapped children are living without a water supply in extremely precarious conditions. The food supply is scarce for everyone, and health workers report more and more intestinal disease among the populace.

Mayor Georges Dib beseeched the ambassador to launch an appeal for some action to relieve the suffering of the civilians in Dayr al-Qamar. According to Ottieri, the mayor said he had heard of the possibility that Italian soldiers could be posted there to monitor the cease-fire, and assist the lifting of the siege.

Ottieri was told by the head of the Phalangist forces, Samir Ja'ja' , that his men would not be withdrawn unless there was an international guarantee for the safety of Christians there. Druze leader Junblatt assured the Italian ambassador that he favoured the use of an Italian observer force in the Ash-Shuf, but he also maintained that the refugee problem could be resolved as soon as the Phalangists withdraw.

"Samir Ja'ja'", he said, "can go to south Lebanon and take his place beside the Israeli-leaning Sa'd Haddad. As soon as his troops leave, there will be no more problems between the Christians and Druze in the Ash-Shuf."

Junblatt gave a confirmation to Ottieri of the news that his Druze leadership would not accept the Beirut airport as the site for a "national reconciliation council" meeting, and said that they have proposed Geneva as a negotiating spot.

Security Committee Fails To Meet 19 October

NC191313 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet today as scheduled. Army representative Staff Colonel Jean Nasif arrived at the Trad Bank branch building between Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat while Lebanese Front representative Dr Jean Ghanim, and Amal Movement representative Dr Ayyub Humayyid were waiting nearby for the arrival of Wahbi Abu Fa'ur, the representative of the National Salvation Front, to proceed together to the meeting place. They waited about 1 hour and 20 minutes, but he did not arrive. Contacts were made to postpone the meeting until tomorrow.

The National Salvation Front representative arrived after the representatives of the Army, the Lebanese Front, and the Amal Movement had left. Telephone contacts were made and it was decided that the committee will meet at 1030 tomorrow.

Committee Meets 20 Oct

NC201157 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee held its periodical meeting this morning at its headquarters in the Trad Bank branch between Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat to follow up its discussion on the deployment of neutral observers. The committee will also deal with the security setbacks that take place at times in the southern suburbs of Beirut and in the mountain, and with other subjects on its agenda.

Al-Hariri Briefs Salim on Contacts Made

NC201025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Within the framework of the current contacts to set a new date and venue for the National Dialogue Committee meeting, Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, received today Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who briefed him on the outcome of his contacts and efforts last night with some parties to the dialogue. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning reviewed with Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, the security situation in the country on the basis of the reports received from various areas.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Phalangist Actions in Villages

NC191840 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today announced his severe denunciation of the behavior of the so-called Lebanese forces in As-Sa'diyat, which led to the evacuation of some people from the area and the destruction of their houses. He said that this behavior complicates things, increases the pain for everyone, and aggravates the situation. He added: I have told representatives of the Security Committee that the government asks the committee to hand over the perpetrators and incitors of these actions.

Al-Wazzan made this statement after a meeting today with a delegation from the inhabitants of As-Sa'diyat, who explained to him the encroachments to which the villages of the Al-Kharrub area are being subjected by these gangs.

2 U.S. Marines, 1 Lebanese Wounded in Explosion

NC191654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1638 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] At a time when it has been noticed that the attacks on the Multinational Forces have subsided, a booby-trapped vehicle parked on the side of the road, east of the Kuwaiti Embassy, exploded at 1630 today while a U.S. Marine patrol was passing by. Two U.S. soldiers and a security man guarding the Kuwaiti Embassy were wounded as a result of the explosion. A truck and a jeep belonging to the Marine contingent were also damaged. Immediately, the Lebanese Army and elements from the U.S. and Italian contingents began conducting investigations around the area of the explosion. The booby-trapped vehicle was a blue 1971 Mercedes 200, bearing plate number 415209. It has transpired that it belonged to Muhammad Salman as-Samman.

Amal Movement Denies Shelling Southern Suburb

NC191750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] An Amal Movement source made a statement a short while ago in which he affirmed the movement's adherance to the cease-fire, and that it will not allow the plot to frustrate the dialogue to succeed. The source called on everyone to shoulder his responsibility toward the innocent people who are killed as a result of the shelling of the southern suburbs. The source said that the airport road has not come under sniper fire. He affirmed that the movement has not established roadblocks on this road, because it has committed itself to secure the airport road since the agreement to reopen the airport. The movement accused what it called the other parties of shelling the southern suburbs to prevent the return of its inhabitants and to frustrate the expected dialogue.

Beirut Reports on Security Incidents 19 Oct

NC191902 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] On the security level, tension today continued on the various axes which witnessed clashes that intensified at times and abated at other times, particularly in the southern suburbs of Beirut where the situation remains tense. Bursts of gunfire and the sound of intermittent explosions can still be heard, particularly on the axes of the post office, Sannin, Mar Mikhayil, and Sufayr. The Army positions in these areas are coming under sniper fire.

A security source has reported that the Army positions in the Al-Jamus area and up to Sannin are now coming under sniper, rocket, and mortar fire. The Army replied with the appropriate weapons. Clashes also intensified this afternoon on the axes of the Al-Kharrub region. Clashes took place between Barja, Al-Jiyah, B'asir, and Harat B'asir during which artillery and sniper fire were used. A security source has reported that clashes took place this evening in the 'Aramun area, where the Army positions came under mortar fire. The Army returned the fire and silenced the sources.

Lebanese Soldier Killed

NC200707 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Armed men in the southern suburbs [of Beirut] resumed their attacks suddenly this morning and directed rocket fire at Army positions in the Dr al-Kitab al-Lubnani area and its vicinity, killing one Lebanese soldier and injuring another. The Army is currently acting to tackle the situation.

Washington 'Insists' on Creating Jordanian RDF

JN191323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Washington — The enemy radio correspondent in Washington today stressed that the U.S. Administration insists on forming a Jordanian military force to work in the Arab Gulf region. The correspondent pointed out that the U.S. National Security Council met last night under Ronald Reagan and his new adviser for national security affairs, McFarlane. During this meeting, all aspects of forming this force were discussed.

The correspondent added that he had the impression that those who participated in this meeting believe that Israel does not oppose the concept of forming the Jordanian force, and that the U.S. Administration officials will exert efforts in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to convince them of the concept of forming the aforementioned force.

'Working Relationship' With U.S. Alleged

PM190930 London Al-Majallah in Arabic 15-21 Oct 83 pp 10-12

['Abd al-Karim Abu An-Nasr report: "Is There a Secret Deal Between Syria and the United States?"]

[Excerpt] We will now deal with the main question: Is there a secret deal between Syria and the United States?

Al-Majallah has received information indicating the following;

1. There is a U.S.-Syrian agreement on a new "working relationship" between the two countries. On the basis of this new relationship, the United States will not try to "isolate" Syria and will have discussions with it on the issues of Lebanon and the region. The White House now is firmly convinced of the need for this relationship and of the need for efforts to develop it.

2. Under this new relationship, the two sides agree on certain things and disagree on other things.

3. There is a U.S.-Syrian understanding that Syria's security interests in Lebanon should be assured before the Syrian forces withdraw. There is a U.S.-Syrian understanding that any "atmosphere of antagonism" between Lebanon and Syria should be eliminated and that the Lebanese Muslims should be given a greater role in the country's political life and a real share of power. *Al-Majallah* has learned that Syria wants abrogation or amendment of the 1943 National Charter and wants a new formula for coexistence among the Lebanese people giving the Muslims a "bigger share" of power. Syria does not want the main positions to go to the Maronites. It supports the idea that the president of the republic must remain a Maronite, but it wants the Muslims to have more prominent positions than they have at present.

4. There is Syrian-U.S. disagreement over the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam asked U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, when they met in New York 2 weeks ago, to scrap the agreement. Shultz gave no answer, but U.S. officials think that the agreement is a "Lebanese affair" and that it is up to the Lebanese to abrogate it. *Al-Majallah* has learned that it is highly likely that, under the canopy of the Lebanese national dialogue conference, a committee will be formed to amend or cancel the agreement and to consider concluding a Lebanese-Syrian agreement to pave the way for with withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

5. One of the Reagan administration's main reasons for establishing this new relationship with Syria is its interest in getting the Soviet military advisers (at present totaling 5,000-7,000) out of that country, just as As-Sadat did in Egypt in 1972.

Al-Majallah has learned from well-informed Arab sources that the Syrian views regarding the Soviets can be summed up in the following points:

A. The Soviet presence in Syria is of a defensive, not offensive, nature. The aim of Syrian-Soviet relations at present is to strengthen Syria's military capabilities in the face of Israel's aggressive policy and no more.

B. Syria's decisions are independent and are not linked to Soviet decisions, although Syria does take into consideration the friendship between the two sides.

C. The question of the Soviet presence in Syria cannot be discussed before a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the region because Soviet arms give Syria some kind of military balance with Israel. At any rate, the decision to oust or keep the Soviets in Syria is a 100-percent Syrian decision which takes into consideration the interests of Syria and no other state.

It was against this background that the Americans announced that Syria would very soon receive advanced Soviet SS-21 missiles capable of hitting any target within a distance of 120 km — which means Lebanon, Israel, and even the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. This is the first time the Soviet Union has supplied this type of missile to any Arab state, or to any state outside the Warsaw Pact.

Informed Arab sources have confirmed to *Al-Majallah* that President Hafiz al-Asad visited Moscow secretly last month and that the Soviets told several Western sides that they are prepared to support Syria to the maximum in the event of an Israeli attack on it. They also said that Moscow would send forces to Syria if its security was threatened.

Reagan has even said that these missiles have already arrived in Syria, adding: "We can only wonder about Syria's declarations of peaceful intentions."

Al-Majallah has learned that the question of the missiles was raised during the recent U.S.-Syrian contacts, and Syria's view was that these missiles were for defensive purposes and had no nuclear warheads.

Al-Majallah has also learned that the Soviets decided to send these missiles after the U.S. 6th Fleet bombarded Syrian positions during the Ash-Shuf war.

6. There is disargeement between Syria and the United States over the peace process in the Middle East and Syria's role in it. Washington wants its new relationship with Syria to focus on calming the situation in Lebanon and getting all foreign forces out of Lebanon. Syria, however, believes that the Lebanese situation is linked to the Middle East situation as a whole. It therefore insists that Washington initiate a new peace process in the region combining the Reagan plan and the Arab Fes peace plan, with Syria and all the parties concerned taking part in this process. The Americans are unwilling to embark on a new peace process in the region, at least before 1985. They still hope to revive the Reagan plan and to have Jordan play a major role in it. Syria, on the other hand, seems to want to play the main role in the settlement of the Palestinian question, instead of Jordan.

7. The U.S.-Syrian contacts also covered the Gulf war and Syrian-Iranian relations. Washington hopes that Syria, by virtue of its relations with Iran, would play a part in ending the Gulf war. However, no understanding has yet been reached so far between the two sides on this matter.

All this shows that there is no complete secret deal between Syria and the United States. There is agreement on certain matters and disagreement on others. Both sides are eager to continue and develop this new relationship despite differences and setbacks.

AL-BA'TH on 'Feverish' U.S.-Western Campaign

JN190930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Press review]

[Text] In its daily "Opinion" column, and under the headline "Where the Hostile U.S. Attempts Are Heading," the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says: The Middle East issue is again occupying first place in the U.S. Administration's interests and affairs. Thus, it has become as important as the issues of armament and Central Ammerica. This issue has also become a major topic in all the meetings and contacts that have taken place during the past few weeks and has dominated all the plans that the U.S. officials have discussed in the U.S. National Security Council and the Congress. The obvious and declared reason for this interest may be the presence of the U.S. Marines in the region and their actual participation in the battles in Lebanon last month against the nationalist forces. Therefore, the Americans are afraid of getting involved in a new Vietnam. However, the main reason for this interest is an undeclared reason which is basically the U.S. failure —despite the presence of the Marines and their participation in the fighting —to reorganize the situation in the region and Lebanon according to its will and decision.

Al-Ba'th continues: It is no longer a secret that Washington blames Syria for this failure as U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced 2 weeks ago. It has also become clear that all the moves and political contacts in the U.S. capital are aimed at discussing how to deal with the Syrian problem and how to force it to keep away from the road of a U.S. concept of a solution to the region. All this was accompanied by a feverish U.S. and Western campaign against Syria in which agent Arab regimes took part to varying degrees. This campaign warned against what it has called the Syrian threats to the Western interests and Israel due to the fact that Syria has obtained sophisticated weapons and that it has become able to foil the U.S. designs, to polarize the Arab masses, and to create a popular Arab course which is hostile to the United States and determined to reject its hegemony following the atmosphere of despair which prevailed in the region in the wake of the invasion of Lebanon.

The paper adds: When the U.S. National Security Council, which is currently headed by former envoy McFarlane, who spent several weeks in the region during which he acquainted himself with the situation and the current facts —when this council decides to bolster the U.S.-Israeli military cooperation and opens arsenals for the Zionist entity to obtain the most sophisticated weapons, then this means that Washington has decided to give the green light to launch a new Israeli military adventure against Syria. If we take into consideration the deteriorating domestic Israeli situation on both the political and economic levels, and the U.S. situation itself, in which Reagan is standing at the doorstep of new elections dreaming of crowning these elections with a military and political victory in the Middle East, then we will realize that this adventure is not be far away.

Al-Ba'th concludes: However, Arab Syria, which is strong with the masses of its nation and the support of its friends, is now more capable and determined to pursue its principled line, which it has drawn for itself to confront all the overt and covert hostile attempts. He who believes that Syria is an easy prey is mistaken because Syria today is more confident of victory over any aggression, regardless of its size.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Meets Al-Asad

LD192028 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19, IRNA — The deputy foreign minister for political affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, currently on a visit to Syria at the head of an Iranian delegation, held talks today with the Syrian Arab Republic's President, Hafiz al-Asad.

During the meeting, which lasted for two hours, Sheykh ol-Eslam handed over the written message of President Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Syrian president. The two parties discussed the Palestinian question and the current plots of the U.S. imperialism and the Zionist regime in Lebanon. The Iranian delegation arrived in Damascus Tuesday on the first leg of a tour to the countries of the steadfastness front and some African countries.

Khaddam Receives Iranian Official

JN200943 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus — At 0900 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary.

During the meeting, the talks revolved around the current political situations in the region.

Ba'th Party Central Committee Meetings Resume

JN192048 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee resumed the meetings of its seventh session under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, the party's general secretary. The committee also began to listen to reports presented by the command on the party's organizational situation.

A number of the comrade committee members took part in the discussion. The meeting ended at 1430.

The committee resumed its meetings at 1700 under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, the party's general secretary. The committee continued the discussion of issues on the agenda and reports presented by the party's Regional Command. It also listened to the deliberations of several comrade committee members on the issues contained in the reports. The committee also listened to reports on the command offices' activities in the period between the committee's two sessions. The committee then issued the necessary directives in order to further bolster the party's militant march through its revolutionary organs and cohesion with the masses so that they can completely shoulder their responsibilities in the face of the great challenges facing our country and Arab nation.

The committee voiced its satisfaction with the party's cohesive organizational situation and its strong unity with the masses, which that constitutes the strong foundation for a solid internal front. The committee voiced its great appreciation for and pride in our militant country's principled stands on our national and patriotic causes under the leadership of our great party and its militant general secretary Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of the nation's steadfastness and the standard bearer of its loftiness and pride. The committee's meetings are still in progress.

Al-Asad Addresses Meeting

JN200753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee completed its discussion of the items on its agenda at 2230 yesterday. Comrade leader President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party, delivered an important orientation speech at the conclusion of the committee meetings. He began by praising the deliberations which took place during the Central Committee's meetings. He praised their vitality, stressing that these discussions give new momentum to the implementation of the state's actions.

The comrade leader said: We may face difficulties in our actions. However, with our country's potential and if we adopt salubrious methods of action, we can achieve much if we work and excel. We must do more than what we have already done. We must give a thrust to the development process in our country, have our establishments work at maximum capacity, and formulate production plans for our establishments on the basis of maximum capacity. Any failure to do so constitutes a waste which must be rejected, and those who are responsible for it must be taken to account.

The comrade secretary general added: Responsibility in our country must be shouldered by every citizen, particularly by the comrade Ba'thists. He stressed the need for the state and party institutions to assume their role to the fullest. He said: We must continue to be sincere and efficient and must do our best to have the masses rally around us because the masses are the source of our strength. We must, by our actions and behavior, always be an example to the masses as this is the sound course toward our victories.

The comrade secretary general then spoke about the most important current issues in the region. On the situation in Lebanon, the comrade secretary general said: The basic objective of our going to Lebanon has been to halt the civil and sectarian war and safeguard Lebanon's Arab character and territorial integrity. We have achieved this objective. Though the Israeli invasion of Lebanon has changed the situation from one reality to another, our objective has remained constant. It is not to allow Israel to strip Lebanon of its Arab identity. He added: They exercised various kinds of pressure, diplomatic games, psychological war, and economic pressures against us. They resorted to all kinds of methods to fulfill Israel's objectives and to have us lose. However, despite their military means they have not made us leave Lebanon. Despite the imbalance which existed between us and our enemies, our officers and soldiers adopted heroic stands and fought as heroes despite the difficult circumstances. Every citizen can speak about our fighting in Lebanon with pride. From this premise, our stand was firm during the cease-fire negotiations in Lebanon, and our confidence in our party, people, and masses enabled us to adopt this firm stand. In view of our just and firm stand, the situation became favorable for us and matters are proceeding for the better. Our stand is an expression of the greatness of our country, party, and masses.

The comrade secretary general said: The battle continues and we are acting on this basis. We are aware that the battle may become more fierce in view of the hostile presence of the United States, its agents, and those who collaborate with it. The comrade leader explained that the United States' strategic objective is to impose its full control on the region and achieve the Zionist scheme of establishing a greater Israel. What it wants is to tame Syria because it is the bastion which stands in the face of their schemes. In their calculations, they believe that if they fail to tame us politically, they will resort to military action. But they must know that neither political action nor military action can tame us. Any dialogue will not be at the expense of our peincipled stand. We told the Americans that they are not seeking peace because they are supporting Israel with all kinds of assistance, while peace cannot be achieved in the absence of a strategic balance among the forces in the region. Thus, what they are seeking is the Arabs' capitulation.

The comrade leader stressed our militant country's determination to confront the objectives of Israel and the United States. He said: Our only choice is to defend our land, dignity, and the Arab nation's dignity. We are defending Palestine because it is our cause, and we shall continue to defend it whether or not this

or that person falls. Our defense of Palestine is a defense of our pan-Arab and central cause.

Comrade leader President Hafiz al-Asad concluded his orientation speech by saying: If the Arab nation is to be strong, then Syria must be strong because when we are strong we can provide a large degree of protection to the Arab nation and the Arab homeland. If we are to be true to this, then we must build a strong and impregnable Syria and be very aware of our pan-Arab responsibility.

Canadian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN191649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Allan MacEachen, Canadian deputy prime minister and secretary of state for external relations, and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 1600 today on a 3-day visit to Syria.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received him at Damascus International Airport.

Meeting With Khaddam

JN192110 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening between the Syrian side led by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Canadian side led by Allan MacEachen, deputy deputy prime minister and secretary of state for external relations. Present at the meeting on the Syrian side were 'Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; 'Abd al-Karim Sabbagh, director of the Information Department; and Dr Sami Ghulayyil, director of the U.S. affairs desk at the Foreign Ministry. Present on the Canadian side were Marchand, the Canadian deputy foreign minister for political affairs; theCanadian ambassador in Damascus; and members of the accompanying Canadian delegation.

The talks dealt with the current international conditions, the Middle East situation, and bilateral relations.

Arab Youth Federation Denounces Saddam Husayn

JN191830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In a statement issued in Damascus today, the General Secretariat of the Arab Youth Federation stressed support for the youths and people of steadfast Iraq against the repressive and terrorist measures that Saddam Husayn's organs are taking against the masses of the Iraqi people. In this statement that came as a reply to the so-called second seminar for solidarity of the Arab youths in Baghdad with Saddam's regime, the General Secretariat has announced its absolute solidarity with our Iraqi people's masses and their progressive forces in order to create a revolutionary vanguard that can end Saddam and his clique as the most dangerous elements of agentry, treachery, and conspiracy in the Arab homeland.

The General Secreatiat's statement also said: The alleged seminar and its statement have expressed the moral and psychological inferiority of Saddam Husayn's regime. The seminar also is another cheap attempt by the fascist Baghdad regime to end its pan- Arab and international isolation, which it had imposed on itself by taking aggressive positions against the unionist and progressive movement of the Arab youths.

The statement also has condemned the terrorist and repressive practices and the large-scale campaign of arrests that Saddam Husayn's regime is launching against the Iraqi people's masses and against every Iraqi citizen or youth who raises his voice asking for waging struggle against the Zionist enemy with the aim of liberating Palestine. It also condemned Saddam's war against the Iranian revolution and denounced his suspect contacts with the agent Egyptian regime that is allied with the Zionist entity.

Events Surrounding Finance Minister Appointment

Kohen-Orgad Knesset Speech

TA191220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad said today in his maiden speech in the Knesset that Israel has a sound socioeconomic infrastructure, on the basis of which the Cabinet will implement a plan to get the economy out of its current crisis. Replying to motions of no confidence submitted by the coalition [as heard] factions, Kohen-Orgad expressed fear that the descriptions and terms the opposition spokesmen used to portray the crisis will cause damage because they are exaggerated. Nevertheless, he felt sure that the public is prepared to show confidence in the policy he proposes, which will be the basis for his request that the Knesset strike off the motions of no confidence this afternoon. The finance minister's reply was only a few minutes long, but he said he would outline his plan only after the other factions end their motions at the conclusion of the Knesset debate in about 3 hours.

Further Remarks

TA191648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Report from the Knesset by Hayim Zissovich — recorded]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad responded to the no-confidence motions in the Knesset today by saying that even if some of the data mentioned are correct they were interpreted without the proper perspective. The Israeli economy is one of the best in the world, the finance minister said.

[Begin Kohen-Orgad recording] With a gross national product of about $25 billion, the Israeli economy is exporting about $11 billion worth of goods, $6 billion of which is value added tax [net exports]. Of course, the gravest problem is that in contrast to exports, which amount to $11 billion, the Israeli economy is importing too much, about $16 billion worth of goods. Not if, but when, we reach a point when exports are about 15 percent higher than the present level and imports are 5 percent lower than the present level, we will then talk of a decrease in the balance of payments deficit, from about $5 billion to $5.5 billion to about $2 billion to $2.5 billion. [end recording]

The finance minister said the economic crisis was caused by two elements: the increase in the balance of payments deficit and the crisis in the banking system. He expressed his confidence that the economy will soon be able to overcome the crisis and the (?nature) of the policy will be determined by the prime minister in the Knesset: decreasing consumption, cutting the budget, eliminating the subsidies, and increasing tax collection. He disclosed that he had already appealed to the Histadrut and to the employers and invited them for a meeting in order to jointly consolidate ways to calm down the economy.

With a majority of 61 Knesset members against 54, the Knesset expressed confidence in the government and in the new finance minister who declared he will continue the economic policy.

Bank Official's Resignation Requested

TA191032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Finance Minister Yiga'al Kohen-Orgad has asked Dr Yaqir Plessner to resign from the post of deputy governor of the Bank of Israel. However, our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Plessner has refused to resign. Therefore, Minister Kohen-Orgad informed Dr Plessner that he would suggest that the Cabinet fire him from the Bank of Israel. The finance minister's decision followed consultations with Governor of the Bank of Israel Dr Moshe Mandelbaum. Dr Plessner was introduced to the Bank of Israel at the time by former Minister Yoram Aridor, and in fact Plessner served as the minister's personal aide.

Finance Ministry Official Resigns

TA191818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Finance Ministry Director General Professor Ezra Sadan has resigned. The finance minister thanked him for his work and requested that he remain in office for another 3 months.

Finance Ministry Appointment Canceled

TA191821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] MK Hayim Kaufman is no longer deputy finance minister. Our correspondent comments that with Kohen-Orgad's appointment as finance minister, Kaufman's appointment has been canceled, an appointment only ratified by the Knesset the day before yesterday, 17 October. Today the finance minister did not ask for the appointment to be renewed, nor did he inform the Knesset of anything, and therefore the appointment is now invalid. Our correspondent has learned that the prime minister had requested that Kaufman remain in office, but the new finance minister has not yet discussed his fields of activity with Hayim Kaufman, and there is no absolute certainty that there will be agreement between them.

Shim'on Peres Interviewed on Jordanian Force

TA191546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres on "News Conference" program by Yitzhaq Golan and Arye Golan — live in studio]

[Excerpt] [Arye Golan] Mr Peres, what is your opinion of the U.S. plan to help Jordan establish a rapid deployment force and equip it with sophisticated arms? Should we loudly protest this, or accept it as the Americans are presenting it, that it is not aimed against us?

[Peres] I will give you a frank answer. I would tell the Americans : You want to establish such a force, establish it, on one condition: that Jordan comes to the negotiating table. It is not the tanks that are the problem, but the relations between us and

Jordan; that is the problem. By the way, I said the same thing about the Egyptians. Look, the Egyptians are receiving weapons from the Americans and we are not screaming about it. Why are we not screaming about it? Because there is an agreement between us and Egypt. If there is an agreement between us and Jordan, fine, let Jordan believe it has a secure border with Israel and it can help Saudi Arabia, Iraq, whoever it wants on other fronts. This was the position I recommended because what we are saying, and we are loudly protesting, but on condition that nobody hears it; have you ever heard such a silent protest? [as heard] With nobody prepared to go to Washington, nobody prepared to say what he is in favor of. So I tell you and I would tell the Americans, the condition is: an agreement between us and Jordan, or the beginning of negotiations between us and Jordan because without an agreement, and with the existence of a state of war, those weapons could really threaten us. After all, we are not against Jordan; we are against the threat coming from Jordan.

[Yitzhaq Golan] Do you believe the U.S. Administration has been making serious mistakes in the area recently; Is there any policy or is it a case of improvisations and mistakes?

[Peres] Look, I am not the one to teach the United States policy but I know we can easily solve all the problems with the United States. I think that, altogether, the Americans have good intentions. I think they have changed their policy several times. They tried to take one path, then another. If you compare their original intentions regarding Lebanon with current intentions, you will see the change. What I can tell you — after all, I am not a book critic or artistic critic of U.S. policy — I would say that Israel and the United States should sit down today and work out a strategy that would include Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and work in accordance with a comprehensive policy which could be implemented step by step, but not take a strategic step each time and a tactical retreat, or the other way around, a tactical step and a strategic retreat. That confuses everyone.

[Yitzhaq Golan] Mr Peres, thank you very much for being with us.

Druze Knesset Member Meets Junblatt in Rome

TA201143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Israeli Druze Knesset Member Amal Nasir ad-Din has held a secret meeting with Walid Junblatt. Reporter Vivien Royston has the details:

[Begin recording] Likud Knesset Member Amal Nasir ad-Din met secretly with Walid Junblatt, the Druze leader of the Lebanese Salvation Front, recently. The meeting took place in Rome, where the two leaders' visits coincided. They discussed relations between the Lebanese Druze and Israel.

Nasir ad-Din refused to confirm or deny the alleged meeting but only said that Rome is a beautiful city. Druze sources said that Walid Junblatt told Nasir ad-Din he is not hostile to Israel and his sole purpose is to secure the rights of his community in the Ash-Shuf Mountains. Nasir ad-Din responded that Israel is interested in promoting friendly relations with Lebanese Druze. [end recording]

Shamir Urged To Attend to Relations With U.S.

TA191102 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 19 Oct 83 P 5

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "Parallel Alignments in Washington"]

[Text] Upon the appointment of MK Yig'al Kohen-Orgad as the 10th finance minister of the State of Israel, and along with the prime minister's efforts to settle the disputes among the coalition parties, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir must once again direct his attention to Washington. During the last few weeks, when Israel was immersed in its economic crises, several trends emerged in the U.S. Middle East policy which harbor both dangers and prospects for Israel. Upon the appointment of Robert McFarlane as President Reagan's national security adviser, these trends may now be strengthened.

Robert McFarlane is known to advocate strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel and the pro-Western Arab countries. In the days when he was adviser to former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, McFarlane was in favor of increasing strategic cooperation with Israel. However, contrary to Arik Sharon, who wanted Haig to regard Israel as the only support for U.S. policy in the Middle East, McFarlane advocated the establishment of two parallel strategic alignments: one with Israel and the other with the pro-Western Arab countries — Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf emirates. Israel itself torpedoed this trend toward cooperation when it confronted the United States with the faits accomplis of the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights, the endorsement of the Jerusalem law, and the Lebanon war.

Now that Menahem Begin has left the premiership and Yitzhaq Shamir has been appointed, possibilities have opened up for resuming the understanding and strengthening the strategic cooperation with the Americans. This is mainly a positive trend, and there is hardly anybody in Israel who would object to the prospects of establishing an easier-going dialogue with the Reagan administration, not only in the bilateral sphere but also within a regional framework.

Yet these prospects also involve many dangers. Yitzhaq Shamir assumed the premiership at a time when Israel's weakness in the political, and particularly in the economic, sphere is evident. The "banks affair" has laid bare the feeble foundations of the Israeli economy and its dependence on U.S. economic aid. The unfortunate adventure in Lebanon has hindered confidence in Israel's political level-headedness and has placed the Shamir government in an inferior position vis-a-vis Washington. In contrast to the large political maneuvering from the Likud inherited from the Alignment, Begin bequeathed Shamir a quite narrow maneuvering space.

The United States is obviously conscious of the weakening in Israel's standing. President Reagan had this in mind yesterday when he convened the National Security Council to examine

various aspects of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Several important issues are currently on the agenda: the crisis in Lebanon, strategic cooperation with Israel and the Arab countries, curbing Soviet and Syrian influence in the Middle East, and the revival of Reagan's plan for solving the Palestinian problem within the Jordanian context. As part of this comprehensive strategy, the United States is now inclined to establish a "mobile deployment force" in Jordan to intervene in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf emirates. The United States is leaning toward arming this force while consciously ignoring the threat this entails to Israel. The Americans even hope that with this move they will rid King Husayn of his fears about Syria and thus increase the prospects of having him embrace the solution of the Palestinian problem according to the Reagan plan.

These thoughts are still a kind of raw material and have not yet been consolidated into a regional plan. However, contrary to the past, the Shamir government at present cannot and must not reject them out of hand.

Now that a new finance minister has been appointed and the formation of the Cabinet has been completed, Shamir must conduct thorough debates about each and every one of the issues being discussed in Washington. Only through the outcome of these debates will the Israeli Government be able to support that which merits support and explain in a level-headed and relevant manner its opposition to that which deserves opposition. Through his restrained behavior, Shamir must prove to Reagan that the era of the "bombastic declarations" of Begin and Sharon has really come to an end.

Papers Comment on Situation in Lebanon

TA200838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 20 Oct 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *Davar* says that the two border policemen killed in Sidon two nights ago once again made Israel aware of Lebanon, an issue which was sort of pushed into a corner during the economic turmoil of the last few weeks. It is only when Israelis take a blow after a period of relative calm that many of us remember that the IDF continues to be present north of the border, in a country where it does not belong, while constantly endangering its soldiers. Indifference and materialism should not reach the point where the Israeli public knows more about what is happening to the banks than about what is happening to the tanks, as the paper phrases it, at a time when the soldiers and the tanks are out on a mission beyond the border on behalf of the government. The new government should make the courageous and imperative decision to bring the IDF back home. The urgency of the economic problems cannot be an excuse for a conceptual freeze of the Lebanese affair.

The Jerusalem Post writes that it is no answer to the problem to suggest that in the future Israeli soldiers should take greater care, for it is the very presence of the soldiers that ignites the fire. The only real answer — unless Israel is ready to tolerate the prospect of increased violence in southern Lebanon — is to begin pulling out and moving back to the international frontier. Surely a way could be found to bar the reconversion of southern Lebanon into a terrorist base without the IDF's costly stay there.

'Al Hamishmar says that making the IDF's withdrawal conditional on a parallel Syrian pullout implies a perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, although such a condition is not justified as far as Israel's interests are concerned. The Syrians were in Lebanon before the war and their presence there was not considered a security threat. Today, too, their presence in Lebanon does not justify the imperilment of our soldiers on Lebanese soil. The list of casualties is getting longer and, according to the paper, the government in Jerusalem is not willing to draw the obvious — albeit belated — conclusion.

Ha'aretz believes that the formula of national reconciliation in Lebanon actually means that the Christian minority will have to give up the privileged status it gained 40 years ago, based on the population census conducted in 1932. Our war in Lebanon, which was designed to perpetuate that anachronism, missed its target. The notion of reorganizing Lebanon into five cantons is obviously aimed at protecting Syria's interests. Nevertheless, this is probably the only way to assure the well-being of the Christian Maronite community.

Hammer Asks Denmark To Intercede in Begun Affair

TA191034 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0950 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 19 Oct (ITIM) — Education and Culture Minister Mr Zvulun Hammer today asked Danish Culture Minister Mimi Stilling-Jacobsen, who is currently visiting Israel, to intercede and react to the trial and verdict of prisoner of Zion Dr Yosef Begun.

Minister Hammer, who heads the public committee on behalf of Begun, broached the issue at the working meeting he held with the Danish minister in Jerusalem.

Ministers Hammer and Jacobsen discussed ways of defining the terms of reference for cultural ties between the two countries in anticipation of the extension of the bilateral cultural agreement in March. Among other things, they discussed the possibility of incorporating performances by the ("Odin") Theater and the Royal Danish Ballet in the "Israel Festival," and holding an exhibition by Israeli artists in Denmark.

Gabon's Bongo Speaks at Closing of CEEAC Meeting
AB191008 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1900 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The meeting establishing the Economic Community of Central African States [CEEAC] has ended in Libreville. The meeting was a success since the participants achieved the expected results, that is, the establishment of this major subregional organization grouping 10 countries.

The closing ceremony was addressed by President Omar Bongo. The Gabonese head of state expressed satisfaction over the success of the meeting and called on the different governments and parliaments to ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

[Begin Bongo recording] In my view, the results that we have reached are proof of our desire to encourage and develop cooperation between our countries. It is through our determination that we have established this cooperation following the major recommendations by the April 1980 Lagos plan of action. This is a major step in the establishment of African common markets which are essential to the initiation of dialogue and cooperation between developing countries. Thus, the date of 8 October 1983 will certainly remain imprinted in the history of the subregion because of the importance and the consequences of the act that we have just undertaken, one that opens for our countries channels for a dynamic and multisectorial cooperation. Once again, we have proved to the world our political maturity by giving priority to the economy. Convinced that the consolidation of our unity can only be achieved through the strengthening of our cooperation, we have just shown that to be united is more important than whatever separates us and that, faced with pragmatic realism, there are no problems without solutions.

Messrs presidents and dear brothers, Messrs heads of delegations, the success that has been scored today by Africa is the result of successful negotiations preceding this treaty which proves the existence of cohesion, understanding, and solidarity. It gives me pleasure to pay you the tribute that you rightly deserve.

We are now turning toward the future, and, convinced that together we will jointly and resolutely carryout our task, I hope that our respective governments and parliaments will do everything possible to make our community strong. In this regard, they will have to ratify the treaty and deliver the instruments of ratification to the government in charge of collecting them. Aware that in the year 2000 our continent's problems will be mainly economic, I hope our community has a long life and becomes an instrument for the development of our countries and for the well-being of their populations. [end recording]

Angola did not sign the treaty. Luanda feels that at the moment it can not fulfill its obligations to the new community. In fact, the country is currently facing great problems, first of all because of the war that has been imposed on it by South Africa and second, because of the unstable internal situation caused by the armed rebellion in the country. However, Angolan Foreign Trade Mininster Ismael Martins asserted Angola's total adhesion to the subregion of central Africa as well as its desire to join the CEEAC at a convenient time. This could not be otherwise since Angola attended all the preliminary meetings for the establishment of the CEEAC.

Ten countries from the central Africa region signed the treaty leading to creating the CEEAC. They are: Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, CAR, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zaire.

Activities of Angolan Delegation
AB191440 Luanda ANGOP in French 1130 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Libreville, 19 October (ANGOP) — At the initiative of Gabonese President Omar Bongo, Angolan Foreign Trade Minister Ismael Martins, who represented Angolan head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the summit meeting of the heads of state of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), held in the Gabonese capital, yesterday met with President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea. During this meeting, the two parties discussed issues connected with possibile cooperation between their countries on the basis of mutual advantage. On this occasion, the Angolan minister informed the Equatorial Guinea head of state about the position adopted by Angola during this summit, particularly as far as the creation of the CEEAC was concerned.

Also yesterday, the head of the Angolan delegation was received by CAR President Andre Kolingba. The discussion between the two personalities concerned Angola's position within this economic community.

The Angolan foreign trade minister, who engaged in intensive diplomatic activity, was also able to meet with Zairian Foreign Minister Kamanda wa Kamanda as well as with Eteki Mboumoua, Cameroonian minister in charge of missions, with whom he discussed problems of bilateral and regional interest, particularly the strengthening of the relations of cooperation and the situation prevailing in southern Africa.

During all these various meetings, Ismael Martins was accompanied by the Angolan ambassador to Gabon, Dombele Mbala Bernado.

ALGERIA

Guinean Parliamentary Delegation Holds Talks

LD191309 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers, 19-10-83 (APS) — Talks between Guinean and Algerian Parliaments [were] held yesterday here. Delegations led by charimen of the both countries' national assemblies examined different aspects of Algerian-Guinean relations as well as international situation in general and African situation in particular. Rabah Bitat, chairman of the National People's Assembly, had at his side Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, and Interior Minister Hadj Yala. On the Guinean side Mr Damantg Camara was accompanied by Geology Minister Ismael Toure, Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Toure. Mr. Damantg Camara, speaker of Guinea National Assembly, who arrived here on Monday was received by President Chadli Bendjedid; Rabah Bitat, and Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi attended the audience.

The head of F.L.N. Permanent Secretariat Mohamed Cherif Messaadia confered with Guinean Parliamentarian delegation; talks focused on perspectives of promoting relations between the two parties, and the countries.

Turkish Minister Discusses Air, Maritime Links

LD191300 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers, 19-10-83 (APS) — Turkey Minister of State for International Economic Relations Sermet Refik Pasin currently on a visit here conferred with Tourism Minister A. Allahoum, cochairman with Mr Pasin of the joint commission between the two countries. He held talks also with Transports Minister Saleh Goudjil with whom he discussed ways of promoting their relations. They decided to speed up discussions for the conclusion of an agreement concerning the opening of a direct air link between the two capitals. They examined also state of negotiation for the conclusion of a maritime line linking the two countries.

LIBYA

Libyan-Soviet Committee Begins Talks

LD191638 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 13, Oct 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The joint Libyan-Soviet committee began its 9th session yesterday in the conference hall at People's Foreign Liaison Bureau in Tripoli. The meeting was attended by secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity, and from the Soviet side Mr. Mulid Minon [name as received], head of the International Committee of Foreign Trade Relations of the Soviet Union.

In the first meeting the Agenda was reviewed. It consists of the two cooperation and the means needed to promote it in the area of economic engineering, petrol industries, agriculture, communications, transport, geology, health and trade exchange and scientific and cultural cooperation.

They decided in this meeting to set up sub-committees for energy, agriculture, petrol industries, gas, transport communications and the scientific cultural cooperation to study the means needed to bolster and strengthen the bilateral cooperation in these spheres.

Mubarak Visit Reflects 'Numayri Regime Crisis'

LD191251 Tripoli JANA in English 0957 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Beirut, Muharam 13, Oct 19, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Political observers believe that President Mubarak's sudden visit to Khartoum, accompanied by his foreign and defence ministers, reflects Numayri's regime's crisis and deterioration of conditions in the Sudan. The Egyptian regime is extremely worried for the deterioration of the situation in the Sudan. This can be seen clearly through the long meeting between Numayri and Mubarak which took place immediately on the arrival of the latter in Khartoum and the last week's visit of Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the foreign minister of Egypt to Sudan. Sudan is believed to be on the brink of a popular uprising that is very likely to overthrow the regime once and for all.

JANA Editor's Commentary

LD192004 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

["JANA's Political Editor Comments about Mubarak's Statement in Khartoum" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Juharram 13, Oct 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mubarak defended the shameful agreement signed by the traitor as-Sadat with the Zionist enemy, by which Egypt recognised the enemy and provided security for it without any return. He defended this greatest of sins through a series of lies, allegations and hypocritical stands adopted by Husni Mubarak during the press conference he gave yesterday before leaving Khartoum for Cairo.

In defending the close relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy, he resorted to distorting fact as he said "We have accepted the peaceful means to solve the issue and we have not deviated from [that] path." He added "The Camp David agreement, in a nutshell, comprises of two parts, the first specifies Egyptian-Israeli relations and the second deals with the means for solving the Palestinian issue, with its various aspects, and this agreement is a step towards resolving the Middle East issue. Had we, as Arabs, agreed on this path and divided the roles, as is done in the civilised world, we would have gone a long way, a long time ago towards solving the Palestinian issue."

He explained further saying that Egypt and Israel signed an agreement and Egypt got back the whole of its territories "with all our rights. No one must stay and occupy our land. We exchanged ambassadors with Israel."

"The second paper, very simply provides the solution to the Palestinian issue from all aspects and in this context we began the self determination talks."

The political editor of JANA commented on these statements and said it is most evident that the president of the fascist regime in Egypt has resorted to lies, in order to make up his stands, advertise himself and improve his reputation as a ruler who has a bad reputation in Egypt itself. The head of the fascist regime in Egypt was under the bad influence of As-Sadat.

It is one of the ironies of Arab history that a ruler like Husni Mubarak, distorting undeniable facts, defends the shameful agreement act of As-Sadat, in front of the Arab nation. He lies blatently and shamefully when he says that the Camp David agreement is for the benefit of the Arab nation and that it gave back to Egypt the whole territories liberated and that it is the way to solve the Palestinian issue. In order to confront this blatant lie and to expose its source we ask:

Which territories did Egypt regain liberated, is it Sinai?

If the head of the fascist regime means Sinai, it was returned disarmed and lacking sovereignty. We dare Muhammad Husni Mubarak to send one Egyptian armed soldier to Sinai. We also are aware that the return of Sinai under such conditions was paid for with capitulation and submission and even official and public renouncement of the Palestinian cause. In return Egypt became an arsenal for the U.S.

We also question, filled with anger and condemnation, which solution to the Palestinian cause the head of the fascist regime in Egypt is calling for in order to be like the civilised world he is imagining? Which solution following Egypt's relinquishment of the Palestinian cause? It has announced 'no war after the October war' and that is what the head of the fascist regime in Egypt reiterates nowadays. How does the head of fascist regime in Egypt lie to the Arab nation and put forward a so-called solution to guarantee an outcome to the Palestinian issue?

This is a blantant lie. Egypt recognised Israel and this is an acceptance of the expulsion of the Palestinians from their land. What is the path that the head of the fascist regime in Egypt, would like the Palestinians to choose as they are basically struggling for the liberation of their land and return to it.

This acrobatic policy doesn't hide the true nature of the ties between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy, and its slavery to U.S. imperialism. But we are not clear as to who the head of the fascist regime in Egypt is lying. Is he lying to the Egyptian people who sacrificed a great deal for Palestine, or is he lying to the Sudanese people who has also provided its share of sacrifices for Palestine?

Resorting to lies and deception show how the modern fascists record personal gains and propaganda and carry their shameful stands with lies and allegations. The worst type of lie is the one where the president of the fascist regime in Egypt talks about the regime's allegded ability to lead the Arab nation. We do not understand on what basis he subscribes this ability to his agent regime. A regime which defends Camp David and confirms the enemy's right for peace and security and denies the right of the Arabs, devalues all sacrifices and aborts the Arab struggle for Palestine in order to talk about compromising solutions.

Does the head of the fascist regime in Egypt want the Arabs to accept Egypt's treachery, capitulation and submission to lead the Arab and Islamic world as he imagines? The Arab masses categorically refuses the arbitrary and authoritarian visions of the head of the fascist regime in Egypt whose actions are for the advantage of the U.S. and the Zionist enemy and not for the benefit of the Arabs.

Egyptian 'Arab Revolutionary Committees' Statement

LD191951 Tripoli JANA in English 1841 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 13, Oct 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A statement was issued by Arab Revolutionary Committees in Egypt on the 14th anniversary of al-fatah revolution. The following is the text:

The revolutionary forces which have succeeded in forming Arab revolutionary committees in Egypt are now drawing attention to the plots and designs that the hireling regimes headed by the Egyptian ruling gang are hatching against Jamahiriyah and other progressive forces.

Noting that this imperialist campaign has arrived to a serious stage of confrontation, we are obliged to declare the following:

Firstly, we warn the Egyptian regime to stop the suspicious contacts on issues like Chad and Lebanon, otherwise we will hit strongly back.

Second, we warn the Egyptian regime to size [as received] collaboration with the French Government against Chad. We remind the regime that the Chadian problem is entirely internal question in which the Egyptian people have no interest whatsoever. The Egyptian Government should concentrate on finding a solution to the many problems from which the Egyptian people are suffering. The regime ruling in Egypt should not forget that it has created these problems in the first place.

Third, we are carefully watching the movement of the agent regimes in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Lebanon together with those of the U.S. and France. Escalating aggression on Jamahiriyah means that we will increase our activities against the Egyptian regime together with U.S. and French interests in the region.

Fourth, we unconditionally support the struggle of the Lebanese people to liberate their land from Zionist and imperialist dirt.

Fifth, we will not cease the fight against the agent Egyptian regime till we finally overthrow it. Only then will Egypt return to its natural place among the Arab nations within the framework of the Arab unity. The people's revolution shall carry on till the destruction of such false regimes is finally achieved.

Sixth, we call upon all the revolutionary forces in the Arab world to unite in a broad anti-imperialist front.

Seventh, we confirm that our organization is not for destruction and sabotage, we are fighters who reject oppression.

Eighth, we strongly believe in the teachings of the 'Green Book', the time way [as received] for human liberation; that we wholeheartedly trust the guidance of the leader of the revolution, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, guidance that will achieve freedom, dignity and the liberation of our beloved land, Palestine.

MOROCCO

Ceuta, Melilla To Remain Free Ports

LD191424 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Madrid Oct 19. (MAP) — Ceuta and Melilla (two northern Moroccan towns still under Spanish rule) will keep their status of free ports after the entry of Spain into the European Economic Community (EEC), announced Tuesday the Spanish radio. The decision was made by the Spanish and EEC delegations Tuesday in Luxembourg, added the same source.

Hassan Meets Belgian King, EEC's Thorn

LD191325 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Brussels Oct 19 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco was received by King Baudouin of Belgium at the royal palace of Laeken where a private dinner was scheduled between the two monarchs on Tuesday evening in Brussels.

On the other hand, Belgian Minister of External Relations Mr. Leo Tindemans hosted a dinner in honer of the delegation accompanying the monarch.

King Hassan II arrived here Tuesday evening from France. The monarch's stay in Belgium wil highlight by talks with King Baudouin and officials of the European communities commission.

King Hassan II arrived here from France where he was on a week long private visit during which he met French President Francois Mitterrand on Monday.

The monarch is accompanied by a delegation comprising namely, the adviser to the king, Mr Ahmed Reda Guidera, the minister of the royal household protocol and chancellery, General Moulay Hafid Alaoui, the minister of state, Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, the minister of interior, Mr. Driss Basri, the minister of trade, industry and tourism, Mr Azzedine Guessous, the minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, M. Othman Demnati, the minister in charge of economic affairs, Mr. Taieb Bencheikh, the ambassador of Morocco to Belgium, to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and to Ireland, and the kingdom's representative to the European communities commissions Mr. Zine el Abidine Sebti and other top-officials.

Upon arrival at the Belgium-France frontier of Hensies, the monarch was greeted by thousands of Moroccan workers established in the countries of the Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg) and by top officials from the European communities commission.

King Hassan II of Morocco held here Wednesday private talks with Mr. Gaston Thorn, president of the European Communities Commission.

The monarch arrived in Brussels on Tuesday evening for talks with top official of the European Economic Community (EEC) on the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC and its impact on the Moroccan economy.

The monarch may also bring up during his discussions with Belgian officials the issue of the Moroccan workers in Belgium.

SUDAN

Ministers Defend Islamic Law Application

JN192120 Khartoum SUNA in English 1810 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text]Khartoum, Oct. 19, SUNA — Presidential Press Advisor Dr. Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq and Cabinet State Minister Faysal 'Abd ar-Rahman today held a press conference in which they refuted the Western mass media hostile campaigns against the Sudan and laid bare their contradictions and malicious intentions.

Dr Abu Saq pointed out the Western media's reports of them hundreds of political prisoners in Sudanese jails when the jails were actually emptied. It also predicted the failure of decentralization for lack of what it called peoples participation when the goal was mainly the devolution of power to the people.

The Western mass media has indulged in lies by saying some 2,000 southern mutineers have then to the bush when in fact statistics belie such figures, Abu Saq said.

The presidential advisor further assailed the Western media by confining the Islamic law application in the Sudan that of cutting hands and stoning. He said what is going on now is an Islamic revolution in the direction of applying and condifying the laws of God and unifying the judciary for its enforcement. It is also codified in the Sudan permanent constitution, he said.

Romanian Official Prepares for Ceausescu Visit

JN191118 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA) — Iosif Banc, member of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Romanian side to the Joint Economic Sudanese-Romanian Committee, arrived here last night. He is accompanied by a Foreign Ministry delegation. This visit paves the way for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to Khartoum during the last week of this month.

TUNISIA

President Receives Visiting Libyan Official

LD192357 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] At noon today in the presidential palace at Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy chief of staff of the Libyan Armed Forces, in the presence of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly, Interior Minister Driss Guiga, and the high commissioners of both countries. Prime Minister Mzali had met with Al-Humaydi earlier.

Following his meeting with Bourguiba, Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi said: [Words indsitinct] we assured the Tunisian president and government of the determination of the Libyan Arab people and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to implement the integration plan agreed upon by the two sides as a further step on the road to complete unity between the two peoples through Arab unity.

The Libyan official said that relations between the two countries now call for satisfaction. Bilateral cooperation has become programmed and planned and is based on hope, trust, and work for the realization of an honorable life for the two peoples.

He expressed satisfaciton at the talks held between the Libyan secretaries for planning and oil and Tunisian officials and the positive results that ensued, particularly in the oil sector and the economic sector in general.

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique on Moroccan King's Visit to W. Europe

LD191310 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 19 Oct 83

["Morocco/EEC: SADR communique" — APS headline]

[Text] SDAR (liberated territories), 19-10-83 (APS) — "The Polisario Front and SDAR Government consider that any aid to Morocco, in the present circumstances, is an encouragement to King Hassan II to persist in his attitude of intransigence and constitutes an affront to Africa and its efforts to restore peace between Morocco and SDAR," a communique of the Sahraoui Information Ministry indicated. Evoking king of Morocco's visit in certain EEC countries, the communique underlined "by this visit, the king of Morocco wants to get new external aids" adding "the economic recovery of Morocco is possible only if this latest puts an end to its eight-year-aggression war against the Sahraoui people." As concerns this visit, the communique said it came following Morocco's refusal to carry out the African peace plan decided by the 19 OAU summit of Addis Ababa. The communique concluded "the best aid that can be granted to Morocco is to advise it to end this unfair and disastrous war".

ETHIOPIA

Government Condemns South African Maputo Raid

EA192006 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Socialist Ethiopia today condemned the South African regime's recent attack on the ANC office in Maputo. Elaborating, the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the South African regime admitted perpetrating this act of aggression, showing that it is still diametrically opposed to observing rules accepted by the international community. The spokesman said that the attack by the commandos of the terrorist South African regime, which violated Mozambique's national dignity and territorial integrity, is proof that South Africa has a general plan to destabilize its neighbors. The spokesman said that revolutionary Ethiopia has called for an immediate end to South Africa's plots and lawlessness, because these constant acts of aggression threaten peace in the region and the world at large.

SOMALIA

Party Official Receives Eritrean Delegation

EA191641 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Challe Adan Mohamed Ali, chairman of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the SRSP Central Committee, received this morning at the conference hall of the Peoples Hall here in Mogadishu an Eritrean delegation from the Eritrean territory. The chairman and ELF Chairman Mr Osman Salih Sabbe discussed the deeply rooted relations between the Somali and Eritrean peoples and the moral and material assistance being extended to the just struggle of the Eritrean people to free themselves from the shackles of the Abyssinian colonizers.

Mr Osmam Salih Sabbe and his delegation thanked the people, government, and party of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] for the warm hospitality accorded them and the unswerving assistance being extended to their struggle by the SDR. Mr Osman Salih Sabbe added that the unification of the Eritrean liberation movements had now almost been achieved, while the forces of the black Abyssinian regime were on the verge of total collapse because the Addis Ababa regime had lost the confidence of the general public of Abyssinia.

Challe Adan Mohamed Ali, chairman of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the SRSP Central Committee, assured the Eritrean delegation of continuing SDR support for the Eritrean brothers. Challe Adan Mohamed Ali added that the aims of all the Eritrean People's liberation movements are one and the same. The SDR will, therefore, continue helping them in every possible way.

SNM Condemns Military Agreement With Italy

EA191623 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] A press statement by the Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces has condemned the recent agreement between the dictator Barre and the Italian Government under which the Italian Government will supply military aid and dispatch troops to the Siad regime. The SNM statement disclosed that, despite opposition by the Somali and Italian people and the Italian forces, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi is trying to go ahead with the plan of sending troops to Somalia.

The SNM, the statement continued, is strongly opposed to the moves by international (?imperialism) and foreign powers in trying to save the dictatorial regime in Somalia, which is staggering under the blows inflicted by the Somali masses. Foreign forces and international imperialism are trying to come to the aid of some elements in the so-called Mogadishu regime. [as heard] The SNM statement warns foreign powers to stop meddling in Somalia's internal affairs and the inevitable struggle waged by the Somali masses against the antipeople regime of Siad Barre.

CHAD

Habre Invites 'All Opponents' to Ndjamena

AB191316 Paris AFP in French 1215 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Libreville, 19 October (AFP) — Chadian Head of State Hissein Habre on Wednesday in Libreville again invited "all Chadian opponents" to his regime to go to Ndjamena "as soon as possible" to hold a general discussion with him concerning the present conflict. "We are ready to extend our hand to all our opponents. Our readiness to meet them is constant, " Hissein Habre declared during a press conference. The Chadian head of state also specified that he was ready, together with the French and Zairian troops in Ndjamena, to give "all possible guarantees" of security to political enemies willing to respond to his appeal and to meet with them in the Chadian capital. "We do not exclude anyone and the opponent Goukouni Oueddei will be received in the same way as all the Chadian opponents now living outside the country," Mr Habre added.

The Chadian leader refused to give details of the lengthy discussions he held on Tuesday in Libreville with Acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu. He merely confirmed that the discussions concerned the prospects of a negotiated settlement of the Chadian problem. However, the OAU is making a great deal of effort to achieve a settlement of the crisis and "all possibilities are good," he added. Questioned on the recent discussions in Paris between one of his opponents, Colonel Abdelkader Kamougue, vice president of the Transitional National Union Government, and French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, Mr Habre stated that "Mr Cheysson meets with many people. It is his most absolute right." Concerning the deterioration of the situation in southern Chad where hotbeds of armed rebellion are developing, Hissein Habre said that the deterioration is not something that would "endanger" the security of all of Chad. Mr Habre, however, specified that solving the problem of the south cannot be dissociated from a comprehensive solution to the Chadian conflict.

Late Wednesday morning the Chadian president left the Gabonese capital where he arrived on Sunday to take part on Monday and Tuesday in the summit meeting that officially created the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC). He was applauded when, during the closing ceremony on Tuesday evening, he signed the document creating the new regional organization. During his press conference, Hissein Habre expressed great satisfaction with the creation of the CEEAC. "Africa, where the laws of the jungle predominate," he declared, "must look for ways and means of finding a place in this world. It is through unity that the African Continent can make its rights prevail on the international scene," he added. Chad's presence within the CEEAC — of which Gabon, Cameroon, the CAR, Zaire, Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, Burundi, and Equatorial Guinea are also members — marks the return of Ndjamena to the central African economic family, observers in Libreville have stressed. It was recalled that in 1969 Chad left the Central African Customs and Economic Union of which Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, and the CAR are now members and since then has found itself somewhat isolated from its neighbors. By deciding to join the CEEAC, President Hissein Habre has ended a long period of economic isolation and at the same time has increased his political weight on the African scene, observers believe.

Habre Returns From CEEAC Summit, Comments

AB191620 Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 Oct (AFP) — Chadian head of state Hissein Habre returned to Ndjamena on Wednesday afternoon from Libreville (Gabon) where he took part in the conference of central African heads of state for the signing of the treaty creating the Economic Community of Central African States [CEEAC]. In addition to Chad, nine central African states — Cameroon, Gabon, Burundi, the CAR, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire — initialed the treaty. Due to the "war efforts" which Angola must make to beat back the "armed rebellion," it has decided not to sign the treaty "at present."

On his arrival in Ndjamena, the Chadian head of state simply stated "that it was too early to speak of the results which the community will achieve," adding, however, that the very principle of an economic, cultural, and political union of central African states was "a good thing." "The tree must be judged by its fruit," Mr Habre further said. The Chadian president recalled that measures in favor of land-locked or insular countries were included in the treaty. Talking about the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, which Chad left, President Habre indicated that his country "could not remain isolated."

Soumaila: Opposition Must Renounce Libyan Ties

JN191548 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 Oct (SUNA) — Soumaila Mahamat, Chadian information minister and official government spokesman, has stated that his government has not yet received any initiative to realize a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem. In a statement to SUNA, Soumaila said that the OAU has not taken or embarked on any step toward bringing about Libyan withdrawal from Chad despite the fact that Libyan forces were the cause of the current war. He said that the OAU can contribute toward solving the Chadian problem but, unfortunately, it has not taken any positive steps to this effect.

The Chadian minister reiterated the legitimate Chadian Government's readiness to negotiate with other parties provided these parties renounce their connection with Libya and negotiate with the legitimate government as national Chadian fronts. He said a solution to the Chadian problem becomes very simple if these parties end their connection with Libya. The government, he added, does not object to negotiating with them inside and outside Chad. The minister expressed his government's rejection of the multiple party principle, pointing out that this multiplicity negatively affects the achievement of national reconciliation. On Goukouni Oueddei's statement that he is ready to come to Ndjamena to negotiate with the government, Soumaila said that this statement comes from Libyan propaganda and Libya plans to remain in Chadian territory.

SUNA: Ndjamena Radio Says Chadians Reject GUNT

JN190709 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 Oct (SUNA) — In its newscast yesterday evening, Chad radio condemned foreign newscast reports on the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] and expressed the Chadian people's rejection of this government. The radio noted a meeting that was held recently at the broadcasting service, attended by a number of state officials including Korom Hamet, secretary of state for foreign affairs, who spoke at this meeting about the disadvantages of the numerous fronts in Chad during 1979 and 1980. These fronts have led to the present war and destruction in Chad. Chad radio said that Hamet voiced the rejection of the Chadian people and government for a return to the previous situation in which the citizens lacked security and stability even inside Ndjamena, the capital.

It is noted that this commentary comes at a time when political observers expect an initiative by the OAU explaining the means and methods to bring about national reconciliation in Chad, particularly since the OAU was entrusted with this duty at the conclusion of the Vittel conference recently held in France. During this conference, President Habre agreed on the national reconciliation issue and negotiations with other Chadian parties. President Habre had earlier stated his eagerness for national reconciliation.

Paris Reports Further on Fighting in South

LD191410 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] There has been a resumption of sporadic fighting in the center of Chad, according to a Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] spokesman in Paris. The incidents took place on Monday in the Bata region between the GUNT forces and the government Army. The fighting, which continued on Tuesday about 150 km east of the capital broke out, according to the spokesman, at the instigation of the Ndjamena forces south of the red line, along which the units of the French Army deployed there, as you know. This is, still according to GUNT, a violation by Ndjamena of the cease-fire tacitly observed until now.

These incidents happened precisely at a time when Mr Hissein Habre is saying that all Chadian opponents to his regime can come to Ndjamena for a general consultation on the present conflict. We are ready to stretch out a hand to all our opponents, we are constantly available to them, Mr Hissein Habre declared, among other things, during a news conference in Libreville. And we exclude no one, he added, and the opponent, Goukouni Oueddei, will be welcomed in the same way as all Chadian opponents now outside the country.

This statement contrasts strangely with that of his foreign minister, who said that we have made the first step — we have begun talks in Tripoli. Unfortunately, they ended in failure due to Libyan diktat, and we will only negotiate with Libya. The foreign minister, Mr Miskine, is in Washington, where he held talks with State Department officials whom he did not name.

Bardai on Clashes

AB192020 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] While the grand leader is enjoying the delights of the massacres of Chadians among the distinguished guests in the Gabonese capital, the military situation is very bad for his criminal organization in the center and in the south of the country. The worsening of the political and military situation, to which the international press gave wide coverage, is getting worse and is paralyzing the activities and all imperialist attempts to draw a line on the northern front in a bid to obstruct the way for the National Liberation Army [ANL] revolutionary forces.

As a matter of fact, the ANL commando units operating beyond the so-called red line continue to harass the puppet forces, who can only reach certain zones in military trucks. The ANL headquarters, which is in permanent contact with the commando units, has sent us two messages reporting violent clashes between the FAN ruffians and the valiant ANL units in the five districts of southern Chad on 16 and 18 October 1983 in Bata and Galigali. At about 1530 a patrol unit of the national annihilation forces fell into an ambush laid by the ANL commando unit at Ngouri, in southern Bata. The routed enemies left behind 30 dead and 24 injured, as well as considerable quantities of arms and ammunition. The ANL suffered (?five) dead and two soldiers slightly injured.

(?Earlier) the commando units, which have been intensifying their harassment operations, also clashed with the reactionary forces at (?Abgoro), a village located between Massenia and Gama. This surprise attack which took place on Monday, 18 October [as heard] ended with an important victory over the evil forces. The routed enemies left behind several dead soldiers. Several individual weapons and a considerable quantity of ammunition were seized.

These heroic and spectacular operations that ANL commando units have just carried out have made it impossible for the FAN to use the roads within any one region under the protection of the French-Zairian foreign troops of aggression, and they have amply demonstrated the determination and will of the patriotic forces to overcome the Ndjamena dictator who is fully supported by international imperialism and African reaction. As the minister of defense pointed out, the actions of the ANL commandos, which considerably affect the enemies' offensive and defensive capabilities in hampering their communication links and in creating a permanent insecurity psychosis beyond the so-called red line, constitute clear evidence that the enemies are much more threatened in the zone they claim to have under their control.

Bardai Interviews Kamougue on Talks in Paris

AB192120 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] As we announced in our previous casts, Colonel Kamougue, the vice president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], has returned to Bardai after a 3-week stay

in Paris. After holding a working session with the comrade president of the GUNT in the presence of a number of ministers in Bardai, the vice president granted the following interview to Radio Bardai on his visit to the French capital:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Comrade Vice President, you were in Paris during the Franco-African summit. You certainly took the opportunity of your stay to make contacts with a number of delegations. Do you feel that the cause of the GUNT and the Chadian people was understood?

[Kamougue] As you said, we were in Paris to take part in the Franco-African summit. You remember that President Goukouni, at a press conference, expressed the desire to take part in the summit in order to examine the Chadian problem, at least as an observer. As he did not receive an official invitation he charged me with leading a delegation which was to take part in that summit if the French authorities allowed this. We arrived there on the eve of the summit. As I disclosed to a newspaper, we arrived there after some delay. However, we granted an interview the same night to Radio France Internationale which was broadcast the following day. Then we also maintained contact with Vittel along with some journalists. We went to Paris to express the GUNT view on the possible initiative which might be taken toward a better understanding of the Chadian problem. We can say that the cause of the GUNT and the Chadian people was well understood because now Hissein Habre agrees to negotiations and because among all the heads of state, the political will prevailed over all other considerations which had so far prevailed.

[Correspondent] Could you clearly tell us who you met in the French capital?

[Kamougue] As you must have realized, we stayed weeks, simply because we wanted to take the opportunity of our stay to promote awareness in many circles. We met with heads of state, French officials, and Chadians. We met with President Haydala, President Abdou Diouf, President Houphouet-Boigny. We met Minister Claude Cheysson. Before meeting him, we met his adviser. We also met the various Chadian organizations in France because we think that (?they too) must be involved in the efforts toward a negotiated peace for the Chadian people. So we have labelled no one as our adversary. Instead, we have taken everyone into consideration, every Chadian. We explained our approach to the settlement of the painful Chadian problem to all those concerned by the crisis. We believed that during our stay, we carried out the mission entrusted to us by Comrade Goukouni.

[Correspondent] Comrade Vice President, you said that you met the Chadian organizations and statesmen based in Paris. It is worth recalling one of your statements in the French capital. You said that in the event of negotiations, the GUNT must be around the conference table on the one hand, and the FAN on the other hand. On what side are the organizations that you met?

[Kamougue] I think that in the first place, we must clear the way by putting the GUNT and the FAN face to face because the reality on the field shows that Chad is in the present situation because of the GUNT and the FAN. So, that is the first problem to solve. If that meeting between the two sides could be arranged, a valid cease-fire throughout the country could be agreed upon. Because beyond the so-called red line, our commando units are operating in the center and in the south, which shows that there is no cease-fire yet. This is henceforth a reality that must be taken into consideration. Concerning those Chadian organizations, we believe that when the time comes, we will call on them. But in the first place, the parties concerned must (?come together) in order to really establish a cease-fire and clear the way for the subsequent talks because the OAU has [words indistinct] on the issue. We also think that the question is under consideration by the heads of state who received the mandate at the Vittel summit, and following the contact we had, it (?seems) that a move is being made. According to me — and I think that this is also the GUNT stand — we must encourage the possibility of solving the essential problem. Later the way will be free for all those organizations that are political organizations. But [words indistinct] the issue is to succeed in solving that problem.

[Correspondent] Mr Vice President, were you able to gain something from your meetings with the African heads of state and the delegations in Paris?

[Kamougue] The first gain was their agreeing to meet with us. As a journalist, you certainly know the position of some of these countries. We made a move toward these countries because of one fact, due to subjective considerations: That fact is that Chad is divided [words indistinct]. This reality must be taken into consideration. So their agreeing to receive us is already a positive step. The second positive step is that these heads of state have expressed a certain political willingness to help Chadians come together around a conference table for negotiations in order to find ways and means to restore peace in Chad. I believe that this political element is very important. Now the dialogue must be maintained with those heads of state in order to further explain the position of the GUNT, which does not set any precondition for the efforts toward peace in Chad. But is this true for the Ndjamena (?dictator)? In any case, we drew France's attention to any deadlock which could block the dynamic process to peace, [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Idriss Miskine had spoken about meeting you.

[Kamougue] This was not part of my mission, and I do not see what we could have discussed. I think that in the face of the delicate nature of the Chadian problem, nothing must be improvised. I was in France with a precise mission which President Goukouni assigned to me on behalf of the GUNT. I could not move away from my objective because the essential thing is not all these little behind-the-scene discussions. The problem is important and there are many people out there who support the GUNT, and the GUNT is a reality. I do not think that was a way of solving the problem by trying to patch up our differences. We do not want to patch things up anymore.

[Correspondent] Mr Vice President, before Paris, you were in Addis Ababa. What was the purpose of your presence in the Ethiopian capital? Did you meet the current OAU chairman?

[Kamougue] Well, that was actually after the recapture of Faya-Largeau. We decided to boost our diplomacy, which was totally nonexistent. In this regard, we had to start with the OAU and its

headquarters in order to meet the current chairman. Also, it was easy for us to step up contacts in Addis Ababa with a number of diplomatic representatives. In fact, the result achieved in Paris stemmed from the job we did in Addis Ababa.

In Addis Ababa, we met the current OAU chairman whom we briefed at length on our position on the settlement of the problem. We also explained to him the contents of the documents prepared by the GUNT, including many proposals which have unfortunately already elapsed. We pledged our willingness to help him in his various steps taken to make Chadians achieve heartfelt peace and not just artificial peace — a genuine peace among Chadians.

So that was the objective of our stay, which we also took advantage of to meet with the acting secretary general. We met a number of officials of the Economic Commission for Africa. We made maximum contacts to explain that the GUNT sets no preconditions for efforts toward negotiated peace and that it is ready to go where Africans want Chadians to meet in order to find ways and means to materialize the aspiration for peace. And I think most Chadians share this view.

[Correspondent] Colonel, some people have been talking about the framework of the negotiations as well as the form of such negotiations. Surprisingly, those who support Habre, the unwavering supporter of the people in Ndjamena, brought up the idea of integrity. Well, I do not know what they mean by this.

[Kamougue] The integrity of what? Territorial integrity? What integrity?

[Correspondent] This is an unfortunate attempt to move away from the core of the problem and make the conflict a border problem.

[Kamougue] I think that our position — the GUNT position — on the problem was understood by a number of heads of state. The famous Vittel declaration insisted on two points. First, territorial integrity and second, the desire to hold negotiations. In any case, for our part, we do not set any preconditions for such negotiations.

Concerning the border problem, it is all about the Aozou Strip. Let us talk about it. We have said clearly that the sons of Chad should first be reconciled. This is essential. What is Chad today? Chad is the picture that everyone has in mind, with the northern part under GUNT control and Ndjamena under FAN control. When a head of state questioned me about this, I said this: This is a problem, but who is to bring up the problem of the Aozou Strip?

So, Chadians must first come together. This is essential. Chadians must achieve peace among one another. We have come here for peace. Once they have come to an agreement on the new institutions, once we have agreed — why not? — on choice of our leaders, the essential thing is that Chadians should be reconciled. Their leaders cannot be imposed on them by foreign forces. This is a point we brought up with the French: Leaders can no longer be imposed on Chad. [end recording]

Bardai Denounces Habre Presence at CEEAC Summit

AB192325 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The mystification of the FAN on the international level continues. After Vittel, the head of the antinational forces, the true commercial traveler of international imperialism, has gone to Libreville, Gabon. Though the presence in the Gabonese capital of the central African heads of state to create the Economic Community of Central African States is justified, a priori presence of the traitor Hissen habre there is unjustified. The leader of the antinational forces [words indistinct] to attend this conference. He cannot claim to represent the Chadian people for reasons that everyone is aware of. Mystification — the description is certainly not exaggerated because the Chadian vampire — who, as in Vittel, is unjustly and crudely occupying the seat of Chad — cannot and must not speak credibly in the name of the Chadian people whose blood he continues to shed.

First, because the residue of the FAN he is leading is living more than ever on a temporary basis in Ndjamena [words indistinct] the French and Zairian occupation. Judicially, the so-called representation of Chad at the Libreville conference by the Ndjamena traitor is a serious anomaly because everyone is aware that the leader of the antipopular gang can only represent the FAN faction, supposing that that faction were still in existence. The Ndjamena [word indistinct] is not qualified under any circumstances to commit Chad.

Therefore, we are faced with a case of pure and simple usurpation of a right belonging to the Transitional National Union Government which is the legitimate representative of the Chadian people. The illegal occupation of the Chadian seat at the current 38th session of the UN General Assembly, at the Libreville conference, and at the Franco-African summit of Vittel by the representative of the FAN faction is a serious breach of the basic rules of international law. Politically, the leader of the reactionary government of Ndjamena has no mandate to represent the Chadian popular masses who have rejected him. In fact, as the monstrous creation of the imperialist forces and especially as the patented agents of American imperialism, the sinister Ndjamena delegates have no qualifications and no national calling to defend the interests of the revolutionary people of Chad. [Words indistinct] the lawyers of their Western masters. Economically, the unusual presence of the president of the [words indistinct] at the Libreville summit is an act of pure demagogy and diversion since the Chadian situation, which is militarily deadlocked, cannot make it possible to honor any economic commitment and cannot make it possible to undertake any efficient and normal cooperation in the absence of a climate of stability. The unjustifiable and unjustified trip of Hissein Habre to Libreville is mere dust thrown into the eyes of the world. After all, who can ignore the fact that more than half of the national territory is not under the control of the FAN. Are we not far from the time when the FAN boasted about their control over all the Chadian prefectures? Finally, the sending of a FAN delegation to the Libreville meeting soon after the serious accusations of massacres of Chadian civilians made against the Ndjamena gang is a disgrace for central Africa and for whoever imposed on us a representative whose hands are dripping red with Chadian blood.

Stevens, Toure Arrive in Monrovia for Mano Summit
AB191232 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Monrovia, Oct. 19 (AFP) — Presidents Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone and Sekou Toure of Guinea arrived here today for a summit meeting with Liberia's head of state Samuel Doe of the Mano River Union which links the three West African states. The union is celebrating its 10th anniversary amid financial problems characterised by the fact that members are in arrears with their contributions, and its permanent officials are expected to press for payment, according to sources in Sierra Leone. A major payment by Guinea, which joined the other two partners later, in 1980, is said to have ensured the recent functioning of the secretariat in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown. The union is currently studying more than 60 industrial projects which it is hoped will have a positive effect on the level of employment, trade, and general economic growth of the member states, which have a total population of 10 million people.

Apart from speeches from the three heads of state, the signature of protocols, and the issuing of a joint communique, the two-day summit will have to confirm a new secretary -general, following the withdrawal of Liberia's Ernest Eastman in July to become his country's foreign minister.

Liberia has indicated it will be nominating Dr Augustus French, but sources in Freetown believed Guinea might also put forward a candidate.

GHANA

Concern Over 'Arbitrary Use of Arms' by Police
AB182200 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] People in and around Bawku in the Upper East Region have expressed concern over what some of them described as arbitrary use of arms by some police and military personnel in the area. This followed an incident during which a police sergeant shot dead another policeman and a trader at Bawku. The cause was not immediately known, but the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation quoted an eyewitness as saying that Sergeant Ayanizaya Frafra unexpectedly opened fire on a group of people who were pleading with him to release a handbag which he had allegedly seized from a woman he suspected of carrying foreign commodities. Three other persons were admitted at the Bawku hospital as a result of gunshot wounds.

According to our correspondent, Sergeant Ayanizaya, who went into hiding immediately after the incident, reported to the hospital 24 hours later with a deep cut in his lower abdomen claiming he had been attacked by some people at the commercial bank premises where he was on guard the previous night.

No Sacks, Bad Roads Cause Corn Crop Pileup
AB192140 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] From Kumasi, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Ashanti regional correspondent reports that thousands of bags of maize are piled up at Nsuta-Beposo and its surrounding villages without buyers. The villages include Banko, Akokyere, and Nkodwoa. According to our correspondent, there are no sacks to bag the maize and some have started to germinate. The Beposo District President of the Ghana Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives Yaw Kodua, has therefore made an urgent appeal to the government to provide them with empty sacks to bag the maize and tractors to bring them down from the villages to Beposo because of the bad roads which have made it impossible for vehicles to ply them. He claimed that more than 100,000 bags of maize are locked up in the villages. He added that the farmers are ready to sell them to government agencies to eliminate middlemen.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Techiman Food Sellers Association, Tijani Mohamed, has appealed to the Upper East regional administration to release articulated trucks belonging to the Farmers Services Company, Fascom, to cart foodstuffs from Techiman to the region which is experiencing food shortages. Speaking to newsmen at Bolgatanga, he claimed that the regional administration has not been cooperating with the association in its efforts to solve the food problem.

IVORY COAST

Editorial Warns Against Libyan Danger
AB191030 Abidjan Fraternite Matin in French 19 Oct 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Danger Is There"]

[Text] Libya again! Al-Qadhdhafi again! Not satisfied with sowing disorder in their region, with maintaining a hotbed of insecurity and war in Chad which they are thus hindering from recovering the peace and tranquillity it needs in order to bind its wounds, not satisfied with supporting the perpetration of terrorist acts in the world, with defying the industrialized countries whose nationals they do not hesitate to capriciously lock up despite the international laws on the circulation of persons, the Libyans are now at our doors. In Togo, to be more precise, where — without naming them, observers have no doubt that they are the ones concerned — it seems obvious that they undertook actions to destabilize President Eyadema's regime. We will know more about this within the next few days.

We certainly knew that Al-Qadhahafi was on the watch and ready to exploit the difficult situations in which our countries find themselves because of the world economic crisis and the deterioration of the prices of our export products. We saw his hand in operations carried out in some states on our borders. We are not unaware of his supplies of arms and the presence of his soldiers in these countries. And we also remember the call he made, during his visit to our region a few months ago, on our peoples and armies to revolt.

Now, here he is in action, tired of waiting — of waiting for the men in his pay, who are attracted by his fluency of speech and his petrodollars, to open for him the doors of our countries — tired of waiting for our peoples who are confronted with the crisis and the rigor it implies as well as with the austerity and sacrifices

the crisis entails if we wish to emerge from it without too much damage — to give him the opportunity to enter like a worm in a rotten fruit. Unfortunately for him, however, the fruit is slow to rot. And Al-Qadhdhafi does not know how to wait. Everything must bow to his will,. immediately! He forgets that millions of sensible and clear-headed Africans do not allow and will never allow themselves to be lured by his passing whims and his feverish agitations and consider him — his hegemonic acts and objectives demonstrate this — as a "public danger."

President Abdou Diouf recently stated that "it is necessary to make Colonel al-Qadhdhafi listen to reason." But how can this be done when those who have the means prefer to say nothing and to do nothing in order to safeguard their meager gains in their trade with Libya? What is happening in Togo and all around us must make us think over the call for vigilance at all levels recently made by the party, as well as its call for our participation in the safeguarding of our individual security and that of our country. Do not let us neglect these calls and let us close our ranks. The danger is there, present. And if it knows that we are strong, united, and determined to repulse it, it will not come this way — even if it is represented by the colorless colonel called Al-Qadhdhafi.

LIBERIA

Archives Named for Sekou Toure Dedicated

AB191740 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel Kanyon Doe, has said the newly constructed archives center in Sinkor is one of the most important undertakings of the PRC government during its 3-year history. Speaking this afternoon at the inaugural ceremony, head of state Doe said it is a proud testimony of the government's profound belief in the preservation of the history and tradition of the Liberian nation. CIC Doe said the concept of the national archives center was born out of the desire to enhance the intellectual, social, and physical well-being of the Liberian people. Chairman Doe said it is his government's hope that the archives center will enable those who utilize its services to better comprehend the Liberian personality and appreciate the nation's struggle for survival.

The head of state also appealed to international organizations, institutions, and friends of Liberia to support the center through financial and material assistance or donations. He thanked vice head of state Podier and members of the Redemption Day Commission for the selection of such an excellent project in commemoration of the third anniversary of National Redemption Day.

Meanwhile, the center has been named in honor of the Guinean leader, Ahmed Sekou Toure. In remarks today at the archives center in Sinkor, President Toure thanked the government for naming the archives center in his name and assured his country's cooperation with Liberia for the development of both countries. He proposed that all documents taken from Liberia in the past be brought from Asia, Europe, and America to Liberia.

In his remarks, President Siaka Stevens hoped that the center will be of benefit to Liberia, Africa, and the world. The two presidents, Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea and Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, are in Liberia on a 2-day state visit at which time they will participate in the 10th anniversary of the Mano River anniversary. The conference is expected to open in Monrovia tomorrow morning. Shortly following the meeting, Presidents Stevens and Toure will depart for home.

Israeli Bank To Provide Technical Assistance

AB190736 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Jerusalem Bank in Israel is to provide technical assistance to the National Bank of Liberia in the areas of project analysis and evaluation, code of procedures, and examination of bank. The governor of the National Bank of Liberia, Mr Thomas Edward Hanson, who has just returned home from Israel upon the invitation of the Israeli Central Bank, made the disclosure in a press briefing in Monrovia on Monday. The Jerusalem Bank's assistance is the outcome of an agreement of cooperation signed in Israel by the National Bank of Liberia and the Central Bank of Israel.

Assembly Officially Endorses Draft Constitution

AB192110 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Constitutional Advisory Assembly has officially endorsed the reviewed text of the draft constitution of Liberia. According to today's edition of the *Daily Observer* newspaper, the draft constitution is ready for presentation to the head of state and members of the People's Redemption Council. No date has been fixed for the presentation of the draft constitution, but the *Daily Observer says efforts are being made by the assembly* members to finalize the date for the presentation of the report. Members of the Constitutional Advisory Assembly endorsed the draft constitution yesterday in Gbarnga, Bong County, where they have been meeting for the past 2 months.

Commander of Armed Forces Commissioned 18 Oct

AB182205 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The commanding general of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Brigadier General Morris Zeze, was today commissioned by the defense minister, Major General Gray Allison. Gen Zeze, a career soldier with 25 years of military discipline, promised to take off from where his predecessor stopped. He said he was aware of the challenge and the responsibility given to him. Gen Zeze then extended thanks to the head of state and members of the People's Redemption Council for his [as heard] performance.

Earlier, Defense Minister Allison told Gen Zeze to enforce discipline in the men and women of the Armed Forces of Liberia. Minister Allison spoke of the need for a professional army that the people of this country will be proud of. Minister Allison

reminded all soldiers that orders from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia must be respected and fully carried out. He told Gen Zeze to fear nothing as he discharged his duties in the interest of the state.

NIGERIA

Shagari Forwards List of Nominees to Senate

AB191156 Dakar PANA in English 1145 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Lagos, 19 Oct (NAN/PANA) — Nigeria's President Shehu Shagari late Monday forwarded the list of 35 ministerial nominees to the Senate for approval. The list is made up of names drawn from all states of the federation in accordance with the Nigerian Constitution which stipulates that at least a minister must be appointed from each of the 19 states of the federation. The ministerial nominees include some of the ministers in Shagari's first term Cabinet. They are Audu Ogbeh, former communications minister, and Emmanuel Atanu, former minister of water resources, both from Benue State, Okoi Obuli from Cross River State, Alhaji Ali Baba from Gongola State.

Other old timers are Umaru Dikko, the former transport minister and the director-general of President Shagari's re-election committee; Alhaji Biliaminu Usman, former minister of state for education; Dr Ismael Igbani, former industries minister; Nigeria's former permanent representative at the United Nations, Yusuff Maitama Sule; and Adamu Ciroma, former minister of agriculture.

Also included are some newcomers like John Nwodo, former special assistant to the president on special duties, and E. Anyaoku, former deputy secretary-general of the commonwealth from Anambra State, as well as Senator Idrisu Ibrahim from Niger State. From Bendel State are J.A. Orhorho and Ralph Uwechue, the publisher of *Africa* magazine. Alhaji Muhammadu Buhari was also picked from Borno State while Alhaji Haliru Dantoro, former senator, and Dr Simi Johnson, retired chief dental surgeon of the federation, were picked from Kwara and Lagos states respectively. Others are Chief Kehinde Sofola, (senior advocate of Nigeria), as attorney-general and minister of justice; Dr Bode Olowoporoku, from Ondo State; Chief Sunday Afolabi; and Dr Bimbo Akintola from Oyo State; Mr Paul Nwapana from Gongola State; Alhaji Ismaila Isa from Kaduna State; Alhaji Hamisu Musa from Kano State; and Mrs Diette Spiff from Rivers State. From Sokoto State are Muhammadu Luga, Idrissu Popo, and Bala Sokoto, as well as Hassan Muhammed and Robert Doshun from Plateau State, and from Imo state is Emmanuel Adiele. From Bauchi state are Ibrahim Tahir, Magaji Muazu, and Sule Katugum, and Dr A. J. Oko Nno from Cross River.

Official Suggests Multiple Naira Exchange Rates

AB191800 Lagos NAN in English 1700 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Lagos, Oct 19 (NAN) — The executive director of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Dr Uma Eleazu, today in Lagos suggested the adoption of multiple exchange rates for the naira as a way out of the country's balance of payment problems.

Dr Eleazu told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that such a measure would revalue the naira against other currencies. He called on the central bank to classify all imports and introduce triple exchange rates for luxury items like Mercedes Benz cars, while raw materials and components should attract lesser rates. He said that the measure would go a long way "to mop up excess liquidity in the system and help to render accounts on volume of business, as well as provide data on the country's foreign exchange reserves."

Dr Eleazu called on the federal government to legalise currency trafficking on the "black market" and make all currency dealers to register with the central bank as well as render returns to the bank like the "bureau of exchange" in developed countries. "They should be allowed to charge about N3 to the dollar or any other rate set by the bank," he said. He said that the responsibility of making the foreign currencies available should be that of the accredited dealers, adding that this could bring "excess" naira abroad back to Nigeria, as well as strengthen the Nigerian currency.

On the rising cost of locally-assembled vehicles, Dr Eleazu said that the government should desist from controlling the prices and allow market forces to determine prices.

SENEGAL

Communique On Diouf Visit to Algeria

AB182045 Dakar PANA in French 1500 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Dakar, 18 Oct (APS/SENEGAL/PANA) — President Abdou Diouf has ended his official visit to Algeria. Here is the full text of the joint communique issued at the end of this visit:

At the invitation of His Excellency Chadli Benjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, accompanied by his wife and a high-level delegation, made an official visit to Algeria from 14 to 17 October 1983. During his stay in Algeria, President Abdou Diouf visited major installations of the Algerian national economy. He visted: the industrial automobile plant in Rouiba, the natural liquid gas installations in Arzew, and the socialist agricultural village in Cheamlia.

These visits gave President Abdou Diouf the opportunity to assess the considerable success that has been achieved by Algeria under the skillful and lucid leadership of President Chadli Bendjedid to whom he expressed his sincere congratulations. The two presidents held talks on relations between the two countries and on current international issues.

Present at these talks were, on the Senegalese side: Moustapha Niasse, minister of foreign affairs; Cheikh Amidou Kane, minister of planning and cooperation; Christian Valantin, member of Parliament and rapporteur in charge of the budget; and Dr Matar Ndiaye, Senegal's ambassador to Algeria. On the Algerian side: Dr Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Ait-Messaoudene, member of the Central Committee, minister of light industry, and copresident

of the Algerian-Senegalese joint cooperation commission; Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Central Committee and minister of planning and national development; and Rachid Hadda, Algeria's ambassador to Senegal. The talks between the two presidents were carried out in an atmosphere of great understanding, friendship, and cordiality in accordance with the traditional ties of fraternity and cooperation existing between the Algerian and Senegalese people.

Relations between the two countries were closely reviewed. The two presidents expressed satisfaction over their progress and quality. They agreed to bring these relations to a level of development that is in conformity with the aspirations of their people and with the objectives and course of action defined by the OAU charter, mainly through the urgent exploitation of all African resources in order to ensure the economic and social development of the continent.

On bilateral cooperation and exchanges, the two presidents reiterated their desire to revive Algerian-Senegalese relations in all sectors in accordance with the potentialities and interests of the two countries. They also agreed to increase contacts at all levels to encourage dialogue, concord, and understanding between the two countries. In this spirit, the two presidents reviewed current international political and economic issues,

On the situation in Africa, the two heads of state expressed their mutual desire to always look for a peaceful solution to African problems and they reasserted their determination to strengthen and preserve the OAU, a guarantor of the national independence of African states, a privileged and irreplaceable instrument of peaceful ideas, security, and cooperation on the continent.

They noted that despite the present obstacles, Africa continues to score major victories in the realization of its political and economic independence. Reviewing the situation in Southern Africa, the two presidents reasserted their militant and indefectible solidarity with the brotherly people of Namibia and South Africa. They reiterated the need for the international community to do everything possible to implement as soon as possible the decisions adopted by the UN and the OAU regarding the independence of the Namibian people under the sole and legitimate leadership of SWAPO. They called, in accordance with Resolution 532 adopted in May 1983 by the Security Council, for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the UN settlement plan contained in Resolution 435. They reiterated their total rejection of all attempts aimed at linking Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The two presidents condemned the direct or indirect South African attacks against the sovereign people of Southern Africa, mainly Angola, Mozambique, and Lesotho. They reiterated their indefectible support for the struggles being waged by the South African people under the leadership of the ANC.

On the Chadian problem, the two presidents expressed their great concern on the deterioration of the situation in this fratricidal conflict. In this regard, they reasserted the principles and conditions that should help promote the reestablishment of a lasting peace in that country, namely, national reconciliation, an end to any kind of foreign interference, respect for national unity, independence, and respect for Chad's territorial integrity. Analysing the situation in northwest Africa, the two presidents expressed their serious concern over the persistence of the Western Sahara conflict. They stressed the need for the full implementation of the 19th OAU summit resolution on the question in order to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Western Sahara problem. The Middle East crisis received particular attention from the two presidents. In this connection, they reaffirmed their constant, resolute support to the Palestinian people's struggle under the aegis of the PLO, their only legitimate representative, toward the recovery of their inalienable rights, including their right to create a sovereign and independent state.

The two presidents expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the Geneva conference on Palestine and underlined that any just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem must be global and entail the participation of the PLO, the return of the Palestinian people to their unsurped homeland and the restitution of all the occupied territories including Jerusalem. The two presidents expressed their belief that the reduction of tension depends on the transformation and on the democratization of all international relations. They stressed that the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement constitute now more than ever an essential and irreplaceable factor for the liberation of the people, the consolidation of national independence, the promotion of a more equitable international cooperation, and the establishment of a genuine peace in the world. The two presidents insisted particularly on the fundamental role which the developing countries must play in the establishment of a new kind of relations between the developed and the developing countries in order to promote a new world economic order.

Examining Arab-African cooperation, the aim of which is to consolidate their political independence, to bridge the technological gap between them and the industrial nations in order to be recognized as full-fledged partners in the decision-making process for the future of the world, the two presidents expressed the desire to revive this cooperation in order to achieve even more positive results in the interest of the Arab and the African peoples. President Chadli Bendjedid expressed his great satisfaction over President Abdou Diouf's visit to Algeria and he praised President Diouf's wisdom and clearsightedness in the conduct of Senegal's destiny.

The two presidents held the view that the visit, which demonstrates the ties of friendship, brotherhood, and cooperation between the Senegalese and the Algerian peoples, has contributed to the strengthening and consolidation of African solidarity. President Diouf invited President Bendjedid to pay an official visit to Senegal. President Chadli Bendjedid accepted the invitation with pleasure. The date of the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Abdou Diouf Interviewed by Algerian Press Agency

AB191115 Dakar PANA in French 1400 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers, 18 October (APS-ALGERIA/PANA) — In an interview granted to the national press agency, the ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE, President Abdou Diouf said in particular: "My first visit to Algeria as president of the Republic of Senegal

constitutes an important turning point in relations between the two countries." During the same interview, the Senegalese head of state also referred to efforts being made by Senegal to emerge from the economic crisis, to move toward promoting South-South cooperation, to attempt to settle African problems, and to contribute toward attaining the major objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. Here is the full text of the interview:

Question: Mr President, as this is your first official visit to Algeria, how would you describe this visit aimed at giving a new impetus to bilateral relations?

Diouf: My first visit to Algeria as president of the Republic of Senegal constitutes an important turning point in relations between our two countries. It made it possible, owing to the fruitful talks held between the two delegations, to examine all political issues of common interest and especially, to make a number of decisions aimed at strengthening economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. An appropriate institutional and judicial framework existed already, that is, a joint commission and sectorial agreements. The measures agreed upon will make it possible, among other things to considerably increase the level of trade between the two countries and to jointly implement economic development projects. The next session of the joint commission, which will be held in Dakar in January 1984, has already received precise directives for the exploitation of all potential in order to conjugate the experiences and complementary resources of both countries for their mutual benefit.

Question: Under your high authority, Senegal, Mr President, is making a considerable effort to face an economic crisis that has hit the whole of the Third World. Could you analyze for us the measures taken and the results expected?

Diouf: The world economy on the whole entered a phase of strong disturbance in the seventies. The morose nature of international economic relations during that decade was extended to 1982 and brought strong pressure to bear on all economies, especially those of the Third World countries. Senegal in this period, which was harshly affected, was hit by a brutal fall in economic growth which reached its lowest levels. There was a strong decline in the balance of payments, and there was great tension in public finances. But soon after the first signs of the crisis which followed the second petroleum shock of 1979, Senegal began to apply a program of short-term stabilization (1978-1980) in order to minimize the negative tendencies in its economy. This program was extended on a long-term basis by an economic and financial recovery plan (1980-85) aimed at injecting sanity into public finances and restoring the great macroeconomic balances disrupted since the first crisis of the seventies. The plans for recovery such as the stabilization programs are mainly linked to truth in prices, the control of government expenditure, the improvement in fiscal profits, the control of the money supply, and the reorientation of investments toward directly productive sectors. The first results of our recovery plan have been rather encouraging financially. Thus, the rate of the budget deficit as compared with the GNP fell from 7.5 percent in 1980-81 to 2.1 percent in 1981-82. That is a fall of more than 5 percent in one management period.

It is true that the economic revival that is already manifesting itself in some industrial countries in 1983 will have some beneficial effects for developing countries like Senegal. However, in order to permanently consolidate our achievements, we will continue to implement with rigor and self-denial our plan for economic and financial recovery. In this regard, we anticipate improved productivity from our investments and an annual average growth rate of 3 percent for the period covered by our sixth plan of economic and social development (1 July 1981-30 June 1985).

Question: In the context of the North-South dialogue and taking into consideration its meager results, Third World countries, including Senegal, favor South-South cooperation. What is your assessment, Mr President, of the preliminary results of this action?

Diouf: Senegal, like Algeria, supports all efforts at different levels to promote the North-South dialogue for the establishment of a new and more just world economic order. But faced with the misfortunes of this dialogue, the strategy of self-reliance which characterizes South-South cooperation, which does not exclude North involvement, is an important aspect of Senegal's foreign policy.

Thus, by using a method of concentric circles, Senegal has joined forces with its closest neighbors to develop its river basin in order to attain self-sufficiency in food and to create poles of development outside the first circle. It is creating trading zones in West Africa through economic communities. At the continental level, the Lagos plan of action adopted by the OAU economic summit in April 1980 is for Senegal an important tool for the economic, cultural, and social development of Africa. At this point, I should add that Senegal gives equal importance to all initiatives undertaken within bodies like the Islamic Conference Organization, the Group of 77, and the Nonaligned Movement aimed at establishing fruitful cooperation between the developing countries. At this level, Senegal and Algeria have pledged during the visit to do everything possible to develop Arab-African cooperation which has some great possibilities since the two regions are complimentary in several respects. Generally, the results of South-South cooperation are satisfactory and the outlook is good.

Question: In regard to the areas of conflict that are shaking Africa, you personally play a major role in the peaceful settlement of these conflicts. If you had to make a review of the hot issues and the attempts at reaching settlements, how would you do it?

Diouf: Currently, Africa is facing tough challenges from the unspeakable apartheid policies of the South African Government, the illegal occupation of Namibia, and the continuing fratricidal conflicts like in Chad, the Western Sahara, and the Horn of Africa. As you know, many efforts have been made to resolve these conflicts, which threaten to destabilize our continent at a time when its development requires the mobilization of all the available resources.

This is why Senegal has always considered it necessary to endorse all initiatives tending to preserve peace and security in Africa. In

this spirit, we have constantly urged the international community, precisely in connection with the Namibian problem, to bring to bear all the required pressure on South Africa to get it to comply with the provisions of the United Nations Organization's pertinent resolutions, particularly Resolution 435 of the Security Council. As far as Chadian and Western Saharan issues are concerned, the efforts made within the OAU should be continued and itensified in order to reach as soon as possible fair and equitable solutions likely to preserve peace and stability in those regions. In any case, Senegal has always asserted the Saharan people's right to self-determination and preaches national reconciliation in Chad without any external interference. It will continue, now as in the past, to try to find, along with the other African countries, lasting solutions to those fraticidal conflicts in the interests of the people involved, of Africa, and of international peace and security.

Question: On the Nonaligned Movement's action on the international scene, Senegal and Algeria work to strengthen this action. What would in your view, Mr President, be the major guidelines of this action?

Diouf: Algeria and Senegal as you know are members of the Nonaligned Movement. This deliberate choice is the result of their unshakable will to preserve their independence which was achieved at great cost. They show in this way their ambition to go beyond the division of the world into two rival blocks in order to replace this with an international society free of the balance of power.

This aspiration of the developing countries, which corresponded to the decolonization period, could not have a better framework than within the Nonaligned Movement. But you will agree that the undertaking was full of risks as the challenge was so great. Consequently, attempts to destabilize the movement were noticed in various places, and all this perhaps was intended to increase the isolation of the Third World, which was often misunderstood but whose voice was increasingly respected. It is toward this end that our two countries have always joined their views in the international organizations in order to defend the ideals of peace and equality between nations. Meanwhile, the movement will have to adapt its strategy to the situation of the world today.

In fact, the nonaligned countries, which are all in the Third World, are at present ravaged by underdevelopment with its train of plagues, which are hunger, illiteracy, and malnutrition. Even if political claims remain legitimate, the nonaligned nations should henceforth be concerned with satisfying the fundamental needs of their peoples. The economic and cultural struggle is indispensable, and it should mobilize all energies of member countries. Accordingly, the New Delhi economic declaration responds to the aspirations of the movement as it proposes solutions to the present disorder in the world economy. The guidelines of this historic declaration, which are as important as the principles which gave birth to the movement in Bandung in 1955, should guide all future actions of the movement. I am convinced that this conforms to the concerns of Senegal and Algeria.

TOGO

Campaign Against 'Foreign Power' Reported

AB191550 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Lome, Oct 19 (AFP) — A campaign is going on in Togo against a "foreign power with evil intentions" which is allegedly trying to destabilise the regime of President Gnassingbe Eyadema. The campaign's target is apparently Libya, but it is never named in the allegations. The Togo People's Rally, the country's sole political party, set up by the president in 1969, this week joined newspapers and student groups in warning the people against "black sheep" who have "committed treason and collaborated with foreign powers to carry out acts of sabotage and to destabilise the government." The warnings call on citizens to band together to preserve their hard-won national unity. The daily *La Nouvelle Marche* quoted the president as saying the people had chosen their own policies and would never accept a foreign ideology. At the weekend, General Eyadema welcomed several delegations from different parts of the country expressing their fidelity and support.

Libya was named explicitly in an editorial in *Fraternite Matin*, a daily published in Ivory Coast. It said Colonel Qadhdhafi was ready to exploit the difficulties some countries were experiencing because of the world economic crisis and the fall in prices paid for their chief exports on the international market.

UPPER VOLTA

Captain Sankara Receives Diplomatic Corps

AB182220 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, received this morning the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. The purpose of this meeting was to reassure the countries and orgganizations operating in our country that they can continue with their activities in peace. Please give us the details of this meeting, Andre Simpore:

Comrade Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and head of state, this morning received the diplomatic corps and representatives of international and inter-African organizations accredited to our country. The meeting took place in the presence of Comrade Ernest Ouedraogo, the secretary of state for interior in charge of security; and Comrade Luiz Dominique Ouedraogo, the permanent secretary for foreign affairs.

Comrade President Thomas Sankara stated that since 4 August 1983, some countries have been scared of the CNR while others have got confused about it. That is why, once again, he wants to reassure these states and organizations, the representatives of which, according to him, are the privileged witnesses to the political life of our country. The head of state said that Upper Volta, which is a hospitable country, is always ready to welcome all those who are willing to cooperate with it for the well-being of the people of this country. That is why Comrade Thomas

Sankara appealed to the members of the diplomatic corps and the representatives of international and inter-African organizations to carry out their projects well in order to help the Upper Voltan people overcome underdevelopment. Comrade Capt Thomas Sankara also expressed the revolutionary wish and determination of the CNR government to speak frankly with those who wish to help us, but, he specified, within the spirit of mutual respect and noninterference in the international affairs of each other. To this effect, since 4 August 1983, the CNR has decided to adopt a new, frank, and direct language which is the language of responsibility, dignity, and the wish to overcome underdevelopment.

Comrade President Thomas Sankara then responded to some questions. In the first question put to him, the French ambassador, His Excellency Gaston Boyer, asked the head of state to determine in which way the CNR wishes assistance to be granted, because during his tour of the eastern region of the country, Capt Thomas Sankara expressed preference for the realization of small projects in our country. In his reply, Comrade Thomas Sankara explained that the CNR's wish is to make Upper Volta a paradise in accordance with our means and at the price of efforts and sacrifices. It is in this regard that he spoke of vast work sites in his policy statement. The comrade president stated that great projects like the Bagre Dam are very expensive and are not immediately profitable. On the other hand, small projects like truck farming and canalization are very useful. In order to realize these projects, the people of Upper Volta will furnish an active participation using the tools and equipment that some states will provide us. In this way, the Upper Voltan people will work actively toward the construction of their country with the help of friendly countries and organizations.

As for Ismael Diallo, the director of the UN training center, he spoke of the slow administrative procedures which delay the processing of documents and lack of follow-up projects. Replying to the first part of the question, the head of state stated that it is rightly this irresponsibility that the CNR wishes to correct by strengthening the administrative machinery and by giving it a new impetus. This issue was also raised by Guy Terra, the deputy United Nations Development Program resident representative who expressed the view that the division of the country into 25 provinces may further slow down this administrative process by creating new charges. The head of state then replied that this division rather lightens the task.

On the second part concerning the follow-up of projects, the comrade president said that a strict surveillance and control will be organized on the projects in order to avoid embezzlement. He also underlined that the lack of follow-up is greatly due to negligence from the countries or organizations in charge of these projects, and this for various reasons, mainly political. Dr Roger Talle, the CEBV [expansion unknown] representative, expressed the hope to see the Upper Voltan airways operate in all the capitals of the subregion, including Niamey and Accra. He also called for a relaxation in the curfew hours in order to enable more air traffic to flow to Ouagadougou. On the operations of Air Volta to other countries, Comrade Capt Thomas Sankara stated that contacts are currently being made to this effect. The head of state then explained that the curfew is for security reasons. He also explained that some foreign nationals have forced some Upper Voltan soldiers to steal some weapons in order to realize some sinister intentions, adding that a large number of mercenaries are attempting to infiltrate the country.

Replying to a question by Mr Petitat, the director of the Swiss Embassy, on the coordination of the projects to be realized, Comrade Capt Thomas Sankara explained that the projects must be undertaken with rigor and that contacts with the Upper Voltan officials must be multiplied.

In conclusion, Comrade President Capt Thomas Sankara declared that we do not show any sign of xenophobia when we denounce imperialists — we are not against foreigners or any particular state. The proof is that since imperialism is international, it exists in Upper Volta as it does in other countries; and this imperialism presents itself in different ways. For example, some countries condemn apartheid, but at the same time collaborate with South Africa. Comrade President Thomas Sankara expressed the willingness of the CNR to collaborate frankly with all the countries and organizations that want to help us.

Roads Bordering Entente Palace Off Limits

AB191430 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Communique from the presidency of the republic issued in Ouagadougou on 19 October]

[Text] The public is hereby reminded that it is strictly prohibited from using all road accesses bordering the palace of the Entente Council at night. The radio broadcasting house-hospital station junction of the Boulevard de la Republic is also closed to the public both in the day and night. Those living in the neighborhood are invited to go for special permits from the National Council of the Revolution's Secretariat beginning 21 October 1983. Any trespasser shall be responsible for what might happen to him. The fatherland or death! We shall overcome!

ANGOLA

Hungarian Party Delegation Concludes Visit

AB191725 Luanda ANGOP in French 1245 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Luanda, 18 Oct (ANGOP) — The excellent links of friendship and cooperation between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Socialist Workers Party of Hungary have been strengthened thanks to the visit made to Angola by a Hungarian delegation led by Imre Katona of the People's Republic of Hungary, the press communique made public at the end of this visit points out.

It further adds that the program of cooperation for the period of 1983-85 signed between the two sides will be the fundamental element in strengthening relations, adding that exchanges of experiences between the two sides were fruitful. The communique also points out that talks between the two delegations were based on the analysis of the international situation, more particularly on the present bellicose policy of international imperialism led by the United States of America.

LESOTHO

Foreign Minister 'Shocked' Over RSA Maputo Raid

MB191604 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, has sent a message to the Mozambique foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, expressing shock over the attack on Maputo by South Africa, and also maintaining Lesotho's solidarity with the president, the government, and the people of Mozambique. In his message, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana said that Lesotho is shocked that the Republic of South Africa had confessed that it is responsible for the attack, in violation of international law and civilized norms.

He said that Lesotho is further enraged by the fact that these attacks take place at a time when President Machel, in Lesotho's view, is taking discernible actions to create a positive political climate in southern Africa, actions which should have encouraged all concerned to exercise restraint and constraint from the temptation of (?economic), military [word indistinct].

The Honorable Sekhonyana said that Lesotho's view is that South Africa should not [words indistinct] with resolving the refugee problem nor in dynamic confrontation with her citizens, particularly when South Africa's policy of creating refugees through apartheid is followed by her venting her spleen on the neighboring states. He explained that this is unfair as it portends a very shaky climate for the subregion.

Foreign Minister Confirms Protest Note From RSA

MB191354 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, confirmed in Maseru today that he had received a protest note from the South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, regarding the content of Minister M.V. Molapo's speech to the United Nations. The minister of foreign affairs is studying the complaint and in good time will give a reply.

MAURITIUS

Vice Premier To Make 'Private Visit' to RSA

MB191401 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] the vice premier of Mauritius, Sir Gatean Duval, is to visit South Africa soon on what is officially described in Port Louis as a private visit. According to Mauritian Government sources Sir Gatean, who unsucessfully advocated formal diplomatic relations with South Africa when he served as foreign minister from 1969-1973, plans to contact potential investors and establish a commercial line of credit for Mauritius during the visit. Mauritius depends on South Africa for vital food imports, livestock feed, and equipment, as well as its tourist trade.

MOZAMBIQUE

Soviet Muslim Delegation Arrives in Nampula

MB191950 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] The visiting delegation of Soviet Muslims, headed by the vice president of the Muslim religious department for Central Asia and Kazakhstan, arrived in Nampula today. The delegation is accompanied by Sheikh Abubacar Mussa Ismael, the secretary general of the Mozambique Islamic Council. In Nampula Province, the Soviet Muslims will tour the provincial capital as well as Nacala city and Mozambique Island.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Comments on Referendum Issues

MB192028 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2014 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Newcastle, Oct 19, SAPA — The general direction proposed by the new constitutional dispensation was what was important for voters in the November referendum, the prime minister, P.W. Botha, said tonight. Addressing an enthusiastic crowd of about 2,000 people in Newcastle, he said members of the public were not expected to go through the proposed new constitution clause by clause; that had been done by government and parliamentary institutions in a responsible way during the past 10 years.

Mr Botha said very few voters knew the present constitution in all its ramifications, and what had been going wrong in the referendum campaign in the last few weeks was that various parties were offering arguments to take attention away from the real issues and the ultimate question. The issue really concerned the granting of rights of self-government to two population groups which did not at present have them.

Mr Botha said that since 1912 successive governments had sought ways of granting political rights to coloured people in the same state in which the whites exercised their right, and more recently it had been decided that Asian people should also exercise their own rights in the same area. "We cannot live in the past. Tomorrow the sun will rise again and we have to deal with South Africa's problems. We have decided the best solution is to give these groups their own voters' rolls and their own parliament to talk with these people, because as long as you are talking you will not be shooting."

South Africa was being threatened on several fronts, Mr Botha said. "Unless we are prepared to establish an alternative to communism and Soviet expansionism we will not succeed in this country."

Mr Botha said the government plan might not be valid for all time but that if enough people were positive about it, their descendants would be able to live peacefully, prosperously and securely.

Referring to the position of blacks in the new dispensation, the prime minister said the matter had not been finalised. "There is no limitation placed in this constitution on the constitutional future of black peoples and communities in South Africa, but we are actually dealing with a different matter," Mr Botha said, adding that blacks had rights that Coloureds and Asians did not have.

"However, there are certain threats that if we continue with the referendum and implementation of the constitution, certain elements will take the law in their own hands. I am not running away from these threats. I want just to say in all responsibility: Don't try it, don't try it."

The prime minister reiterated that the government opposed a system of common voters' rolls and one man, one vote in a unitary state. Asked during time whether there was a "back door" in case things went badly for whites in the new dispensation, Mr Botha said whites had better guarantees in terms of new constitution. Only language rights were entrenched in the present constitution whereas all "own" affairs were entrenched in the proposed new constitution.

Responding again to the charge that the new constitution was offensive to Christians as non-Christians would share coresponsibility for government, Mr Botha said non-Christians had been able to serve in the South African parliament since 1910. "Without religious freedom there can be no peace for South Africa," he said, "because, when you abolish religious freedom, you are playing with the foundations of the whole state." The premier pointed out that followers of more than 100 denominations served in South Africa's Defense Force.

Challenging opposition party leaders urging a "no" vote in the referendum to state whether they would participate in the new dispensation should the "yes" vote carry the day, he said he was convinced they would participate. Mr Botha said much money was being used to mislead voters with propaganda to the effect that "Rhodesia said 'yes'."

Not all the relevant facts were being given to the public in this propaganda campaign. It was a lie to say Rhodesians had voted for the same constitutional plan as that now before South Africans. In 1922 Rhodesians in a referendum voted "no" to join the Union of South Africa, and in a 1969 referendum had voted "yes" to a double-question whether to become a republic and inclusion of blacks in the same dispensation as whites. Rhodesia thus said 'no' to joining South Africa and 'yes' to the inclusion of blacks, which by implication is in fact a 'no' for self-determination."

The prime minister said that if there was a "no" vote on November 2 he would accept the verdict not to go ahead with the new constitution, but would not interpret the results as a vote of no confidence in the government which had been elected to rule until 1986. The National Party government had not brought South Africa through 30 troubled years simply to give it away, Mr Botha said.

Journalists in Maputo Find Document on ANC

MB191353 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Foreign journalists allowed into the Mozambique capital of Maputo to see African National Congress offices attacked by a South African task force have come across a document referring to ANC soldiers. The document suggested that there were ANC activists based inside Mozambique, contrary to previous ANC statements. A report from London by one of the journalists says the documents clearly caused embarrassment among Mozambican security officers. ANC officials first sought to explain the term ANC soldiers as referring to political soldiers, but then suggested that the visiting journalists had deliberately planted the document while walking around the offices. The journalists said their departure from Maputo airport was delayed while the matter was being investigated, but eventually the Mozambique minister of information approved their departure. The South African attack on the ANC offices is reported to have caused extensive damage to the building. The journalists said it was remarkable that the five people injured in the blast had not been killed. They said the building housed the main ANC office in Mozambique and large amounts of anti-South African propaganda material could be seen among the debris.

Johannesburg on 'Irrefutable Evidence'

MB191740 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Station commentary: "Mozambique and Terrorists"]

[Text] The action taken by the Mozambican authorities in allowing foreign journalists into Maputo to examine the buildings attacked by South African security forces has backfired. The idea was to gain media support for the claims by the ANC that Maputo is not used as an ANC base for strikes in South Africa. However, someone slipped up rather badly and failed to remove all the incriminating evidence before the journalists arrived. A sharp-eyed BBC journalist found a document which referred to

so-called ANC soldiers and immediately started asking awkward questions about ANC activists based inside Mozambique, something which the ANC had previously denied. The journalist reports from London that the document clearly caused embarrassment among Mozambican security forces. The ANC first used the ridiculous explanation that the soldiers referred to were political soldiers, but when it became apparent that these were seasoned journalists and not cub reporters who would fall for any tall story, it was suggested that the journalist had deliberately planted the document. The upshot was that the journalists' departure was delayed until a Cabinet minister intervened.

Obviously the reputation of the ANC and the Maputo government suffer gravely as a consequence. Reports from Maputo indicate that South African forces must have had detailed knowledge of the ANC offices in the city when they carried out the raid. And, indeed, South African intelligence is beyond doubt. This country has irrefutable proof that the ANC bases in Mozambique serve as a coordinating headquarters for this organization's attacks on South Africa. Terrorists there are divided into specialized groups under the leadership of Joe Slovo. In Maputo there are the regional headquarters for ANC operations in Natal, the Transvaal platteland, and Transvaal urban areas. From there, too, terrorists are sent to Lesotho from where they strike at targets in places such as the Free State, the Cape, Transkei, and Ciskei. Last year, during a South African raid on ANC bases in Lesotho, the Army found proof of more attacks having been planned. In addition, the haul made by South African forces during the raid included a rocket launcher, grenades, devices for exploding limpet mines, Soviet submachineguns, and false-bottomed suitcases.

The evidence is irrefutable that the ANC launches attacks on South African targets from neighboring states. The stand South Africa has taken is definite: It will hit back whenever necessary. The legal position is clear. Insofar as international law is concerned and the UN Charter, South Africa has every right to strike into these countries that harbor terrorists.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Says UK Delaying Resettlement Funds

MB190956 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] There have been some bureaucratic procedures applied deliberately to disable Zimbabwe from using the $30 million pledged by Britain for resettlement purposes. The minister of lands, resettlement, and rural development, Comrade Moven Mahachi, made this statement in the Senate yesterday and added that Britain intended to delay the usage of the money. Comrade Mahachi was speaking during debate on the vote of $32,123,000 for his ministry in this year's [word indistinct] expenditure. He explained that his ministry asked the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development to negotiate with Britain to ease the bureaucratic processes and facilitate the use of the pledged amount. However, in accordance with the Lancaster House agreement on land issues, the British plege can only be used on a 50-50 basis. Consequently, Comrade Mahachi explained, if the government is unable to provide 50 percent of the amount it needs for the resettlement program, it cannot draw from the British pledge.

UK High Commission Said Listing Passport Holders

MB190940 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The British High Commission in Harare has begun listing all British passport holders in Zimbabwe as well as those with dual nationality. The step has been taken in the wake of the disruption in relations between Zimbabwe and Britain, and in the knowledge that Britain could be faced with an exodus of whites from Zimbabwe. The high commission has opened offices in all the main centers in Zimbabwe and has been appealing to British passport holders to attend registration meetings. Approximately 60,000 Zimbabwean whites are either British passport holders or enjoy dual citizenship of Zimbabwe and Britain.

Similarities Noted in Maputo, ZANU-PF Bombings

MB191405 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, says there is a striking similarity between the recent bombing in Maputo and the one carried out on the ZANU-PF Headquarters in Harare about 2 years ago. Comrade Munangagwa told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation that in both cases the explosives were laid on the roof, and the saboteurs fled to South Africa. The minister said since in both cases the same method and style of operation was used, the same people must be responsible for both acts of sabotage. The racist Pretoria regime admitted that its forces were responsibile for the Maputo bombing, which left five people injured.

Correction to U.S. Repatriating Professionals

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "United States Seeks To Repatriate Professionals," published in the 19 October Middle East and Africa *Daily Report*, p U 7, only paragraph, line five:

...$12 million to the Geneva-based intergovernmental committee for the migration of the exercise. Comrade (Sibanda) said although contacts have been made with the agency, a final agreement has not been reached... (supplying missing lines)